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20 March 2020

Critical Sector Work Child Requirements

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience whilst we have waited for further guidance from the government about critical worker and vulnerable children categories.

The Cabinet Office and Department for Education state that:

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children- children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protections plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans. School will make contact today with parents within these categories to discuss childcare requirements.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. **Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.** Please, therefore, follow these key principles.

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed within the link below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritized for education provision:

Details of who critical sector workers are can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you cannot provide childcare and fall into one of the categories, please contact the school either via e-mail or by telephone. You will need to provide the **name** of your child, their **class** and details of your **occupation**. *You are expected to prove that you are eligible and to indicate why you require the provision.* Details of the days you will require this service will also need to be supplied.

If you normally access the before and after school care and you are eligible, this will be available to you. Otherwise, children will attend during normal school hours.

Free School Meals

Any child eligible for Free School Meals is able to access their nearest school (to include siblings at either Violet Way or Edge Hill). This will be between 12.45pm and 1.15pm. Children will need to be left during this time and then promptly collected. **Parents will need to inform the school if they wish their child to be provided with a meal.**

Nursery

Our Pride, Our Joy will be operating as normal for those parents who are key workers as detailed above.

For children of eligible key workers who will be attending:

- To wear non-uniform that is suitable for outdoor learning;
- Are requested to bring a healthy snack;
- On Monday, children should enter through the main gate, they will then proceed to their normal classrooms where they will be registered. Collection will be from the usual classrooms/exits.
- Initially all school staff, others than those who are self-isolating or ill, will be present before a rota is established.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

M, Hamblin, Mrs, CEO