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5 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, education leaders have received notification that from immediate effect, all schools in England will be closed due to the COVID-19 situation apart from those pupils who are classed as vulnerable or children of critical workers (please see specific guidance below for critical workers). We will contact parents of pupils who are classed as 'vulnerable' to ascertain if they will need a place as soon as possible.

Throughout this time, staff will all be working to provide online work for pupils who are not at school.

The aim of closing schools is to reduce the number of pupils and staff mixing for all of our safety. Please support us in considering if the place you are applying for is essential to help us reduce this risk for those who genuinely need our help and for our staff. **If you can make an alternative arrangement for your child/children, we urge you to do so.** There will be an online form for any parents who are critical workers to complete **as a matter of urgency if a place is required. This will be a Google Form, which will follow shortly; it MUST be completed by 2pm at the latest.**

Critical workers are defined as:

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in Health and Social Care and in other key sectors including Education and Childcare, Key Public Services, Local and National Government, Food and other necessary goods, Public safety and National Security, Transport and Border, Utilities, Communication and Financial services.

However, many families with parents working in critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. Please remember that you can still make use of childcare bubbles to help support you with this. If it proves necessary, in order to keep numbers to a minimum in school, we may ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker and justify why your role is critical to the COVID response or the EU transition.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your amazing support with this situation and my best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Cutbush
Headteacher

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs J. Taylor & Mrs S. Clamp

