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*Schools' Partnership*

**Headteacher:** Mr J Parr BA Hons

Dear parents and carers

We now have the detail available to us that we have been waiting for regarding who may be defined as a 'Key Worker' and therefore be able to consider using school based child care provision.

The following is based on the government's directive to schools this morning.

We are asked to remember that, as a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#). And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear.

**The government are stressing that, if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

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.

We will therefore 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 protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans. We aimed to contact all pupils in this group yesterday – but if you think you fall into this category and we missed you please email [Admin@csschool.co.uk](mailto:Admin@csschool.co.uk) or phone 01694 722209.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined at the end of this letter. **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.**

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Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. Work will be set for them on Go4Schools.
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 you wish to apply for a place in our child care provision that will run from Monday please complete the form [here](#) (if you have not already done so).

We ask you to also confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. **We ask that you provide confirmation from your employer of this by 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

Can I take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff, several of whom will be continuing to provide for the children of the other critical workers of our country. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease and I am very grateful to them all.

For those of you who have applied for a child care place – we will be in contact with you before Monday.

Yours sincerely,

John Parr  
Headteacher

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, **and you cannot keep your child safe at home** then we will prioritise them for education provision:

#### **Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

#### **Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

#### **Key public services**

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

**Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

**Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

**Public safety and national security**

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

**Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

**Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

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