



Anston Greenlands Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

The Government published their list of key workers at midnight last night.

They have 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 guidance states that 'many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.' This is because the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread. **Therefore if only one parent is a key worker, it would be expected that that child would stay at home.** We already have several staff and children self-isolating due to COVID-19 symptoms and we must ensure we keep the risk of infection as low as possible. It is up to schools to determine who should attend and it may be necessary to 'prioritise offers to families according to capacity, need and health advice from Public Health England'.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then school will be open for them.

Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents over 70 or family members with underlying health conditions.

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. Therefore it is important to limit the number of children attending school.

Please note that schools are not expected to deliver a normal curriculum. It is likely that the children will be together in one or two mixed-age groups.

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 your children will be prioritised 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.

Please inform us **before 12 o'clock today** if you require our services on Monday and into the coming weeks. You may be asked to provide proof of employment. The guidance states that 'if workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.' Depending on your role, you may be asked to provide written evidence of this communication. We will get back to you to let you know whether we are able to offer a place.

Please be assured we will aim to keep the school open for as long as possible with the safety of our children, staff and community in mind.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Wirth
Headteacher

