

20th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for your patience during what is an anxious and uncertain time for you. Please ensure that you read to the end of this lengthy communication about our continuing, on-site provision.

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. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. 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**.

It is important to underline that schools remain safe places for children. However, 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 (those children who have an Education Health Care Plan or an allocated social worker) and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and **cannot be safely cared for at home**. Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure that their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

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 in my letter of yesterday, I have also now provided below the Government's detail around this. 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. To be clear, critical sector parents will not be criticised or challenged if they decide to keep their children away from school.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be;
- 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;
- 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 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 arm's 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.

If you think that you fall within the critical categories above you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Now that we have this more full set of guidance, I write as yesterday to ask any additional families to get in touch with the school, by email, to let us know that you intend next week to send your child to school. Please write the email, **by noon today**, to keyworders@kings-international.co.uk **leaving the body of the email blank and stating only in the subject line the name and tutor group that your child is in and also the profession in which you work. If you wrote to us yesterday, you need not write again.**

This is an offer to parents and there is no requirement for parents to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

We are able to offer this provision to a limited number of children as we are advised to run a skeleton staff so that we too are following the guidance on social distancing. The majority of the staff team have young families or dependants so we will do our very best to balance supporting our school community as well as our own families.

During this unprecedented time, schools will be playing a different role, primarily about care, not curriculum. We will not be following the national or exam curricula or completing statutory assessments or exams as we would be required to do under normal circumstances.

We will contact those parents who have indicated that their child will need to be in school next week by the end of today.

Our plan for the next two weeks is:

Providing all parents who will be home learning guidance and support on how to provide a varied set of activities that will include not just school work, including a mix of focused learning, creative work, physical activity, written work, online websites etc. We will also be providing guidance to parents: supporting learning updates for children, offering feedback for parents, supporting mental and physical health and wellbeing of all.

Once again, thank you to everyone for your continued support of the staff team during this time, it is hugely appreciated. Support staff and teachers alike have really 'stepped up' and I am grateful to them all.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J. Luhman
Headteacher