



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust



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DAI/TCG

20 March 2020

Dear parent/carer

This morning the government has released much-needed information regarding the role of schools in preventing the spread of Coronavirus. A link to this document can be found at the end of this letter (and also in the new form which we are asking Key workers to fill in).

The key messages from this document are as follows;

Schools should **remain closed to all pupils**. The Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, **wherever possible**. This is to limit the chance of the virus spreading. They have asked schools to remain open only for those children of 'Key Workers' that **absolutely need to attend because no other childcare arrangements can be made for them.**

Every child who can be cared for safely at home, should be. If it is at all possible that a child can be at home, then there is the expectation that this should be the case. All children should follow the social distancing practices which the rest of our country have been asked to follow to keep themselves as safe as possible.

Specifically, the Government have said;

*"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**"*

Parents who are 'Key Workers' and are critical to the COVID-19 response include the sectors outlined below:

- Health and Social Care
- Education and Childcare
- Key Public Services
- Local and National Government
- Food and other Necessary services (e.g. Deliveries)
- Public Safety and National Security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services



Many parents working in these sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Therefore, if a parent is in the Key Worker group but can arrange safe childcare other than school, there is an expectation from Central Government that they should do this. This is to ensure that we protect those workers who are in critical roles from infection as far as possible.

Equally, there are a number of staff who work in schools who are unable to attend. This may be because they themselves fall into a vulnerable group, are self isolating, or are ill. This means that schools might only be able to accommodate a small number of pupils each day, and we need to prioritise these places to Key Workers with the greatest need.

In order to help us do this, I would appreciate it if you could fill in the new Key Worker form which has been sent to you at the same time as this letter, but you only need to do this if you have indicated that you will need support from Monday. If this could be returned as soon as possible that would be really appreciated. We need this information to determine whether we can offer the supported childcare place from Monday 23 March 2020. If you think that you need a place from Monday, you will need to complete and return the new Key Worker form by **midday Sunday 22 March 2020**.

As always, thank you for your support. There has never been a more important time to work together than now.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Airey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end of the name.

Headteacher

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