

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we prepare for the majority of our pupils to begin learning from home as of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, we are also preparing for the fact that our school will remain open to vulnerable children and children with parents who are classed as Key Workers.

Whilst our main aim is always to support our community in any way we can, we would like to remind you that we have over 400 pupils in our school and we must **stress the importance of this message given by the government:**

***'Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.***

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

In light of this government advice, we insist that **parents should only send their children to school if they absolutely have to - any families who can provide care for their children at home we urge you to do so.**

This will enable us to **provide care for those with no alternative** whilst being able to keep the number of pupils at a safer level to safeguard families and Fynamore staff against the further spread of this virus.

We are aware that the government Q and A section states that schools should try to make the offer where only one parent is a key worker. In reality, schools may need to prioritise based on their capacity.

**Our priority list in order of highest priority first will begin with:**

- 1. Vulnerable pupils identified by the school.**
- 2. Children from single parent families whose parent is a necessary, critical key worker for which there is no other childcare option or children from two parent families whose parents are both necessary, critical key workers for which there is no other childcare option.**

A full guide can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

**Those pupils identified by the school and outside agencies as vulnerable and any pupil with an EHCP will be contacted today by a member of SLT** to discuss whether those parents wish to send their children to school.

The government goes on to state that:

***'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.'***

Please see the government list at the end of this letter to check if you are eligible for your child to attend school if you need them to.

The government requests 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.'***

We understand that obtaining confirmation from employers quickly may be difficult with services already in high demand so **are happy to accept confirmation retrospectively from employers in the very near future.**

Having read the above advice, and **if you have absolutely no alternative** but to send your child in to school, you must **email [office@fynamore.org.uk](mailto:office@fynamore.org.uk) by 8:00AM on Monday the 23rd of March** with the following information:

- Your child/children's name
- The title of your job and name of workplace
- The days and hours you require your child to attend school (e.g. perhaps you only need your child to be in school for a couple of days a week or just mornings to cover your shift pattern)

We will have a maximum percentage of the usual school population allowed on site so it is vital that we receive the information on time to plan effectively. I am sorry but **we will be unable to accept any children whose parents do not submit the above details by 8.00am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** as we will only have a skeleton staff at school and will need to organise children into suitable groups. **We also hope that by giving everyone more time to get back to us, it will allow as many families as possible to make alternative arrangements.**

We intend to offer any children that do continue to attend the school the same daily tasks that pupils working from home will receive in order to keep it fair for all. There will be no additional bespoke teaching for those pupils still attending school as it will be a range of school staff that will be caring for them.

It is important to note the words of Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, ***"It's not going to be an educational setting, they're not going to be teaching the national curriculum, but it's going to be a safe place for people who are key to combating this virus and keeping the country moving forward."*** Pupils will be working with children from other year groups and will not be following a typical curriculum.

Our school day will run from 9.00am – 3.00pm to allow time for staff to plan and restructure in response to possible staff shortages due to illness or isolation requirements. This will also allow time for our staff to arrange their own childcare.

As I am sure you can imagine, this is a very complex and important provision to set up and it will take some time to organise. To allow us time to manage the logistics of this new provision, the school will not be open to pupils on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

**If your child is offered a place at the school as of Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, we insist that the same guidelines regarding self-isolation are followed if your child or a family member displays symptoms of COVID-19. They must then not come to school for 14 days from the first sign of symptoms. This is paramount in ensuring the safety of all pupils and staff attending our school during this time.**

Please keep an eye on emails over the weekend and on Monday.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

**Ms Sarah Weber**  
**Headteacher**

## **Government List of Critical Categories:**

### **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.