

Monday 23rd March 2020

Provision for vulnerable children and critical keyworkers and starting from Monday 23rd March

Dear Parents,

I hope this communication finds you well. It certainly is a bit strange interacting with an audience that is no-where to be seen!

It is clear that the government is trying hard to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus by minimising the amount of contact between children, teachers and their families, whilst also supporting critical key workers in providing emergency services and enabling us to have access to food.

As the rate of people contracting coronavirus continues to increase, we are forever mindful of the part we have to all play in following the government strategy in taking the preventative measures such as social distancing and self-isolation whilst prioritising the care vulnerable and children of critical keyworkers.

The Government guidance makes clear the following important points:

- **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**
- **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.**
- **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.**
- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**

Following on from the previous correspondences both sent out on Friday 20th March, this ongoing message from us communicates the provision of children of critical key workers and vulnerable children, and aims to continue to clarify what this looks like.

- We can, at this point in time, open from Monday 23rd March, **8.30am – 3.30pm**, Monday to Friday.
- This provision will be similar to that provided by Fun Club, we will not be delivering the national curriculum.
- Our offer to parents means there is no requirement for parents to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.
- Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.
- Our places are limited to in order to minimise the risk to critical keyworkers families, school staff and your own.
- We have strict criteria, as all schools have, and this means that we prioritise places to those families where **both parents** are defined as critical key workers (and have to work at the same time) or a single parent carries this status, as well as those children who have an Education Health & Care Plan or social care intervention and are vulnerable.

- **Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home i.e. swapping shift patterns, one parent being able to work from home, split families – the parent not defined as a keyworker may have to care for the child when it is not their contact – these are exceptional times.**
- **Please do not ask the school to make exceptions – if you do not fit the categories described below, your child/children cannot attend school.**
- This provision is very much dependent on the demand
- Staffing levels will affect the running of the provision as it is unknown if staff may need to self-isolate or care for their own loved ones.
- **Please do not turn up unannounced.** You will need to make a request using the form below. A decision will then be made using criteria and you will be notified.
- We are unable to provide breakfast or after school care due to the pooling of all of our resources to enable us to provide this provision.
- If circumstances to the critical key worker demands change – please let the school know.
- To make a request, based on all the information that has been provided, the paperwork **must** be completed returned to school.
- Information on free school meals will be communicated soon.
- **Please note in these forever changing circumstances-** local schools are currently exploring hub provision which could change the provision that Uley School offers

We apologise for being so strict and the disappointment and inconvenience we may cause some families but we do hope you understand the stringent restrictions are due to the nature of the virus and the guidance published – we are here to provide care for children whose parents are **critical keyworkers** when there is no other appropriate alternative.

“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.”

Therefore, please only request a place if it is absolutely essential; we want to help those on the frontline, whilst supporting the government strategies for containing the virus, plus wanting everybody to remain safe and well.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Zoe Mandeville

Uley Primary School COVID-19 – School Provision Assessment

Key messages from DfE guidance:

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

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Family Name:	Child 1:	Class:
	Child 2:	Class:
	Child 3:	Class:

Child protection and welfare needs: Yes / No

CIN plan

CP plan

LAC

Young carers

EHCP*

Parents/carers who have a critical role to play in the Covid-19 response (Please tick the box that applies to you):

Parent/carer 1:

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

Work pattern: full time part time subject to change

Days of work	Start and finish times

Parent/carer 2:

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.

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Is there anyone else that could look after the children? Yes / No

- *If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.*
- *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.***

Details:

Employer Confirmation

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.

Name of Employer:

Employer confirmation:

(Signature from line manager required)

Date:

