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<http://www.knaphillfederationofschools.org.uk/>

Friday 20th March 2020

COVID – 19 Update

School Closure – Key Worker and Vulnerable Children Provision

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Following the latest Government announcement and guidance, schools have been instructed to close from Monday 23rd March, sadly, making today our final day for now, for the majority of children.

Government guidance has ‘**asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**’ The guidance also now explains their definition of ‘Key Workers’ and ‘Vulnerable Children’ (see link below).

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

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.

It is important to underline that schools remain safe places for children. 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 our community. 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** and there is no requirement for Parents and Guardians to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

Can you please complete the Google Form below by 12.30pm today, Friday 20th March, if you fall into either of the categories explained in the guidance and your child/ren **absolutely need to attend school**.

<https://forms.gle/PJr3cAoAz7kR66hU6>

We will need to close this at 12.30pm today to ensure we can put a plan in place which supports both our community and staff. Due to work commitments, if for any reason you are unable to complete the form by 12.30pm today please call into the school offices before the end of the school day.

Knaphill Lower School 01483 473282

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Please note that we will e-mail you as soon as possible to confirm whether you meet the criteria, issued by the Government.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

Thank you for your continued support during this time.

Kind regards,

Miss J Concannon
Federation Headteacher