



HEATH FIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Inspire Achieve Celebrate

Field Avenue Hatton Derbyshire DE65 5EQ Telephone/Fax: 01283 813255

E-mail: enquiries@heathfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

Website: www.heathfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher Mr Mark Whyman

20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

We now have the key workers guidance and are in the process of planning to stay open for a small number of children to support them and their parents in the work they are doing for our community.

With the new guidance we now need to get a clear idea of how many children we need to cater for. The government guidance is clear **that children should be kept at home where possible and this provision is in place for those children who 'absolutely need to attend.'** As I am sure you are aware this is in place to limit the spread of the virus, keep people safe and reduce pressure on our NHS. School should not be seen as a child minding service, but as an essential service for key workers who find that there is **absolutely no alternative. I would like to stress that if there is another parent who is not a key worker, they should be responsible for looking after their child at home.**

Advice from the government is as follows:

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.

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.

Please let us know by 1.00pm today, by phone 01283 813255 or email admin@heathfields.derbyshire.sch.uk if you are a key worker and **absolutely need** your child to be in school. We will need to know employment details for both parents.

Later today, we will contact those parents who contact us with details of whether or not they meet the criteria and what arrangements will be in place next week.

Details from the government defining key workers are as follows:

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





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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,





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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.

