



Dear Parent / Carer,

Following Friday's National school closure in a strategic decision to socially distance all our community and stem the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) we will be opening from Monday 23rd March for those children of identified Key workers only. Can I please remind you that if you are not on our agreed list of keyworkers and were spoken to on Friday **DO NOT** send your child to School, **DO NOT** attend and expect to leave your child in school – staff have been instructed to turn away anyone not on the agreed register. This is done in the interest of protecting both staff and children. The Government has made it clear every child who can stay safely at home should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. For key workers the advice remains the same, 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.

Only families with an offer of a place should attend the school.

It is important to underline that schools remain a safe place for children and staff. Therefore, 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 wider community.

CRITICAL WORKERS

Whilst we have already agreed a place for your child under the current reduced staffing structure if you have not already done so, we will still require proof from your employer that your specific role is necessary for the continuation of an essential public service.

If this is not received by Friday your child's place will be withdrawn – the government guidance is clear any child that can stay at home should.

We will be in contact with you on Monday to clarify your position to make alternative childcare arrangement.

It remains the case that if our school does not have enough staff to care for pupils safely (even based on the new 'reduced provision' approach) then a full or partial closure may be necessary, jeopardising key front line workers.

Therefore, If you are not in the following categories we ask that you make alternative childcare arrangements as we move to **critical workers only**. This is not a decision taken lightly but in the interest of maintain critical front line services and ensuring children and staff remain safe.

Critical Workers are:

1. Pupils where either parent is a member of NHS frontline staff eg doctors and nurses
2. Pupils who have a social worker or are known to the school to be vulnerable
3. Pupils where **BOTH** parents are on the critical worker list

The school will be open from 8am to 3pm only

As a school we want to be flexible, but we will have to manage who can access this offer. For the safety of all.

Free School Meal Entitlement

The school has been asked to maintain free school meal provision through out the present closure. Whilst we have been advised that a County Durham or National Voucher scheme will be put in place at present Taylor Shaw will only be able to provide a cold packed lunch option. A text will be sent out and we ask that you reply no later than 10 'o' clock so that numbers can be collated. Collection will be from Lower school main entrance and we ask that no adults enter the building unnecessarily.

Easter holiday Arrangements

We are currently awaiting further guidance on provision for critical workers over this period and we will update you as information becomes available (also check our school website for updates).

As I'm sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with an entirely unprecedented situation which is both complex and rapidly changing. My priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in our school. Now more than ever, this remains our primary focus. And while I appreciate that there will be a wide range of different views about how we should be responding and what action we should take, I hope you will appreciate that I am duty-bound to follow the official advice and guidance from the government.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr M A Watson

Headteacher
Leadgate Primary School