

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

Following on from the previous correspondence sent out at lunch time, here are some updates as to the provision Uley School can offer.

We will open from next week from **8.30am – 3.30pm**, Monday to Friday (at present). 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. The offering will be play based and children attending should wear clean home clothes and washed their hands.

Although we would love to have as many children in the school as possible, this is contrary to government health advice, as it would go against the principles of social distancing for pupils and staff and therefore put them potentially at risk. We also have had to prioritise based on staffing capacity, bearing in mind illness, and the school must also continue to provide for those pupils working from home. For that matter we have had to apply very **strict criteria** to our list, as all schools have, and this has meant that we have to prioritise childcare places to those families where **both parents** are defined as critical key workers or a single parent carries this status, as well as those children who have an Education Health & Care Plan or social care intervention.

The 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.**

We apologise for the disappointment and inconvenience this will cause some families but we do hope you understand the restrictions – we are here to provide care for children whose parents are **critical keyworkers** as opposed to your day to day childcare provision. These places are limited to in order to minimise the risk to critical keyworkers families, school staff and your own.

We have started to offer places for next week for those that meet the strict criteria. To make a request, based on all the information that has been provided, the paperwork **must** be completed returned to school by 10am Monday morning. Please do not turn up unannounced. A decision will then be made using the criteria and you will be notified by email.

“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 take request a place if it is absolutely essential due to the implications it will have on other critical worker families who need it, as well safeguarding the health of pupils and staff in attendance.

Any requests received after 4.40pm today will not be considered until Monday morning. Please may I remind you that the deadline for making requests for next week's provision is 10am Monday morning.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Zoe Mandeville