

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Partial School Closure Guidance

I would firstly like to thank you all for your support and patience whilst we have waited for the guidance to be released by the Department for Education. As you will be aware, from Friday the 20th March the school will be partially closed. We have no information as to how long this will be but we will do our best to keep you up-dated via texts and emails.

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

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.**

Key Groups who can attend school

Two key groups will be able to access school provision from Monday 23rd March 2020 – Key workers (see definition below) and those children who have Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) or who are being supported by a social worker.

Please do not ask the school to make exceptions – if you do not fit the categories described below, your child/children cannot attend school.

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. Our offer to parents and carers means there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so. **Our offer will be prioritised to provide childcare for the times when both parents are needed to work.**

For vulnerable children, your child's social worker will work with you to assess the best option for your child.

Please find below a detailed breakdown of a 'Key Worker':

Key workers:

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to:

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Midwives
- Paramedics
- Social workers
- Care workers
- 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
- 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
- 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 arm's 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 you belong to one of the groups shown above, you are now required to complete the form found at the bottom of this letter and return it to school as soon as possible so that Uley School's offer can be confirmed. This can also be emailed to the school office.

Uley School wants to offer provision for those **critical keyworkers** where it is essential that their services are absolutely required. We do also need to be mindful our Uley community and to do all we can to prevent the spread of the virus. We will do all we can to continue our offer for as long as possible, but please be mindful that there could be the possibility that there may at some point be a staff shortage due to staff needing to self-isolate or care for their own loved ones. Therefore we may not be able to provide the staffing levels required to safely continue the provision. Should this happen advice will be sought and communicated.

I fully appreciate that this has all come at the last minute. I would ask you to be mindful of the fact that this has also challenged us as a school and remember that we are doing our very best to offer support during these unpredictable times.

Thank you for your understanding and your continued support.

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.

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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.

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Work pattern: full time part time subject to change

Days of work	Start and finish times
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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.

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

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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:

