



Dunston Hill

Community Primary School

Friday 20 March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Important Update for Key Workers Only – Coronavirus (Covid-19)

The government have released some guidance about the partial closure of schools which starts on Monday 23rd March. Please read the detail below carefully.

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.** That is why 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.** 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 wider society.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in this link:

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

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

The government are asking the parents of Dunston Hill Community Primary School to follow these key principles:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then provision will be available for them.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Mr C Sutherland, Headteacher

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What this means for parents of Dunston Hill Primary School

It is anticipated that the overwhelming majority of children **will not** attend school after Friday 20th March until further notice.

If your child is classed as vulnerable, **the school will contact you to find out if you will require the reduced provision school will be offering.**

If you are a parent whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response carefully consider whether you are able to keep your child at home. **Remember every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.** I am stressing this because if Dunston Hill Community Primary School has to open for lots and lots of children whose parents want to access this reduced provision then it will put huge strain on school staff, all of whom remain susceptible to coronavirus.

I can only provide this provision if I have enough staff. Parents who send their children to school unnecessarily may contribute to forcing the school to close, which I will have to do if I do not have enough staff.

If you are a parent whose work is critical to the COVID-19 and are unable to keep your child at home then please contact school before 2:00pm:

- by phone from 10:00am
- by email at info@dunstonhillschool.co.uk

When you contact us, we require you to tell us the following:

- Name of child
- Year group
- Name of parent/s
- Profession of both parents (if applicable)
- Days of provision you require

Once we have that information and have confirmation that you meet the government criteria, we will contact you to explain how things will work on Monday. We will only email this to those for whom this is applicable.

These are unprecedented times. The purpose of partial school closures is to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I apologise for the delay in getting this information to you but I'm sure can appreciate the incredibly tight deadlines we are working to.

#GoTeamDunston #BeMoreKind

Yours sincerely

CR Sutherland

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