

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

As you are aware, we have been instructed to close the school to almost all children until further notice. **As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.** That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing.

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.

As advised by the government, we will be **staying open for a limited number of children**. This includes **children who are vulnerable** and **children whose parents/carers are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home**.

Further details of these sectors are detailed below.

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

Please, therefore, 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 educational provision will be available for them.
3. For childcare, parents should not rely 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.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

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 childcare, support 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 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.

Key Workers who will qualify will **need to be identified by a workplace ID** when they drop their children off to school.

School for selected pupils from Monday 23rd March 2020:

- Children should wear comfortable clothing & footwear suitable for a range of activities.
- School lunches will carry on as normal.
- Schools have been asked to provide care for children so our provision will not be the same as a normal school day.
- Drop-off & pick up will be from the front School Office.
- If your child has a persistent cough and/or high temperature, they will need to self-isolate for 14 days along with any siblings.

- If your child is already in self-isolation, they need to continue to until they are out of this period.
- School will be open from **8.30am - 3.15pm**

All other children will need to stay at home. Please note that this is a national closure, so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone.

Pupil learning during school closure:

For pupils at home, teachers will be setting daily and weekly tasks on our Online Learning platform, DB Primary. You can access this along with a wide range of other resources via our school website under the 'Pupil Learning' tab. Details of this and your child's login details have already been sent to you, but please contact the School Office if you have any questions regarding this. If we have contacted you regarding online access, a pack will be given to your child.

Please note that the School Office will only be contactable via email on office@woodlands.ealing.sch.uk or via text on [02033899069](tel:02033899069).

Next steps:

If you believe that your child qualifies for education provision during this time, please complete the following online form by **5pm today**.

<https://forms.gle/XA8jv9Sm5VBf1Q7o9>

It is vital that you respond as soon as possible. We will be collating this information and planning out provision for this group of children. **If we do not have this information, we will not be able to accept children on Monday.**

We will be working after hours today to ensure we are able to contact those who will be able to attend school on Monday. **You will be notified later tonight by text/phone/email if your child will be attending school from Monday 23rd March 2020.** We apologise that this may be short notice for some of you, but as you are aware, information from the government was only just finalised this morning.

We thank you all for your understanding, flexibility and cooperation during this difficult time for all. We hope that every one of our families and all those in our community stay safe and healthy. Please do monitor and follow daily advice updates from the government. Together we will get through this and we look forward to seeing you all when school reopens to all pupils.

Yours Sincerely,



Harinder Rana
Headteacher