

King Athelstan Primary School

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Headteacher: Emily Newton

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter includes important information - please read right to the end and take the required action as a matter of urgency.

Thank you for your patience during this uncertain time. 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.

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/carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend**.

It is important to understand that schools remain safe places for children. However, 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 being asked to continue to provide care for a very limited number of children including those who are vulnerable (for example, children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan or an allocated social worker) and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response (key workers) and **cannot be safely cared for at home**.

Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Parents/carers 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:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- Parents/carers should not rely on childcare from those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- Parents/carers 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.

Shortly, we will be sending you a booking form so that you can book your child into school on the days you need over the next 2 weeks.

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 provision at King Athelstan.

Please see below for a list of qualifying keyworker roles:

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.

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 think you fall within the critical categories above you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Many of you have already contacted us regarding your key worker status and we are now sending you a booking form. We have also spoken to all families whose children have an EHCP or who have a social worker. We will be sending you a booking form too.

Understanding all the information in this letter, if you believe that you qualify and you absolutely need to send your children to school as you do not have a parent/carer at home, please contact the school office urgently (before 5pm today - Friday 20th March) providing details of your child's name and year group, your keyworker role, employer name and we will send you a booking form.

This is an offer to parents/carers and there is no requirement for parents/carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

We are able to offer this provision to a limited number of children as we are advised to run a skeleton staff so that we too are following the guidance on social distancing. A number of our staff team are self-isolating and some have young families. We need to balance the support for the community and not add pressure on other settings to manage additional children or on the remaining staff.

If children attending school need Breakfast Club or YMCA as wrap around care, please book and pay for this in the normal way. Please cancel any bookings that are no longer needed. YMCA can be contacted via 07795 181816 or jessiegambell@YMCALSW.org.

We will be writing to you again with further information in the coming weeks.

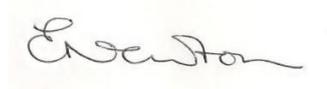
During this unprecedented time schools will be playing a different role, primarily about care, not education. We will be doing some learning activities throughout the day, alongside practical, physical and creative activities. At this time, we recognise that it is important to promote physical and mental wellbeing and the school day will reflect this. Children who are attending school, should wear their own clothes, with their school sweatshirt. They should continue to have PE kit at school.

PLEASE COULD ALL FAMILIES CANCEL THEIR LUNCH AND BREAKFAST CLUB BOOKINGS FOR THE REST OF THIS TERM IF NOW NOT NEEDED.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Once again thank you to everyone for your continued support of the staff team in very challenging circumstances, it is hugely appreciated.

Emily Newton



Headteacher

