



Headteacher Mrs A Johnson

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

You will have seen the updated guidance from the Department for Education which answers some of the questions we had yesterday about who would fall into the key worker groups:

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

**The most important message for you is that if your child can be at home, they should be at home. The recommendation to send children to school is only so that key workers who don't have any alternative arrangements are not forced to stay off work. Therefore it does not follow that all key workers on the list would or should be sending their children to school. The guidance explicitly states:**

**"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."**

Key worker parents who have notified school have been informed that there are arrangements in place for the educational provision for their child. Unless you have spoken or communicated directly with myself to confirm provision, your child will be required to remain at home from Monday until further notice.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, a packed lunch will be available for collection daily from the school hall between 11:30am and 12:30pm. Please access the hall via the hall doors situated at the end of the school drive. **Please note: this is not universal free school meals for reception and KS1 children.** If you are unsure if your child is eligible for free school meals, please contact me on [a.johnson101@durhamlearning.net](mailto:a.johnson101@durhamlearning.net) or through Facebook messenger.

All information relating to remote learning will be sent home today and is also available on our school website. If your child is not in school and you would like to collect a pack (exercise book, pen, pencil, reading books) then these can be collected from the school hall between 9:30am and 11am on Monday. **Please adhere to government guidance around social distancing and access the hall via the hall doors situated at the end of the school drive.**

These unexpected circumstances have meant we potentially have said a premature and unexpected farewell to some of our children. We would like to assure you that transition plans to support your child continue, and we are working closely with staff in their next phase to ensure a smooth transition and that they have the opportunity to celebrate their primary school career with us at a later stage. Our year 6 children enjoyed fish and chips, fizzy drinks, cake and a relaxed day in school today, and they are already planning a future celebration to mark their transition.

I will continue to update you on a regular basis.

Many thanks,

Alison Johnson  
Headteacher

