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Date: 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As previously shared, schools have been directed to close today and remain closed until further notice **except for children of key workers and vulnerable children**, as part of the country's ongoing response to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Plans for your child will be emailed/sent by letter today.

However, I am writing to confirm that at ten past midnight today, the UK Government issued the following guidance -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>

I have highlighted some key points below -

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE -

The government is asking "parents to keep their children at home, **wherever possible**, and asked schools to remain open **only** for those children **who need to attend**."

"It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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."

"Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans."

"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 safe at home."

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."



The list of key workers is below:

Health and Social Care
Education and childcare
Key public services such as journalist or justice system staff
Local and National government
Food production and distribution
Public Safety and Ministry of Defence
Utilities and communication to include gas and electricity.

Further advice and guidance for parents and carers is available here -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers#critical-workers>

If you are a key worker and planning to use our provision, please contact the office **by 11am today**. I understand that a number of parents/carers were contacted yesterday and appreciate this is a difficult time for everyone. We are just trying to ascertain if we can successfully provide a schooling experience with the low number of staffing members left.

Anyone with questions, should email me directly at – p.midworth@dlc.dorset.sch.uk or via the school office.

I thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Phil Midworth

Phil Midworth
Headteacher

