



Headteacher:  
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Raising Pupil Aspirations.

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### Key Workers Update

The government have released some guidance about the partial closure of schools which starts on Monday 23 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 overleaf. 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 Riverside Primary Academy 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 educational provision will be available for them. If we are unable to arrange it at our own school we will help arrange it elsewhere.
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.

## **What this means for parents of Riverside Primary Academy**

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

### **List of Key Workers**

#### **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 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.



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## 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 your child is classed as vulnerable, the school has already contacted you to find out if you required the reduced provision school might 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 Riverside Primary Academy 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 and their families, all of whom remain susceptible to Coronavirus.

**I can only provide this provision if I have enough staff. Many of our staff and their families are in the vulnerable categories and some are already not permitted to be in school. 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 ring in the first instance, as this will enable school to plan for next week. You will also be asked to complete a form/disclosure, as we are already aware we are unable to provide the usual level of Health and Safety or Paediatric first aid. Government guidance indicates only 10% of our children will require school attendance. Therefore, we are expecting only a small number of children. School staff are putting themselves and their families at risk by attending work and therefore we want to have the smallest number of children and staff on site at any one time. Please try to understand the urgency of this situation and support us with this.

Provision made for children will reflect that of a childcare setting, as we are not expected to provide education or usual routine to our pupils. We will also be imposing social distancing as far as possible in our activities.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Goodfellow  
Head Teacher