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*'To do the little things well'*

**Headteacher: Mrs A Woodhead B.Ed (Hons)**

Dear Parents and Carers

The government list of key workers was published late last night, was very broad and this has presented us and other schools with a significant challenge, frankly because the list captures so many people.

We have been told that we should look to cater for just 10%-20% of our total school population, as a **public health recommendation**. Unfortunately we have been absolutely inundated with a large number of responses from parents who believe that (a) they are key workers and (b) they have no other care provision. Though we are about to analyse responses it is already clear that the demand for places will far outstrip what we are expected to offer.

Guidance is that we will have to prioritise and this will involve a lot of work to sort and some challenging conversations potentially. We have therefore been asked to remind parents/carers that these are extraordinary times. We are in the middle of a national emergency to meet the challenge of a virus that can kill.

We have all been asked to support the national response and do all we can to reduce the spread of the devastating COVID-19 virus. It therefore cannot be business as usual for any of us. Life has to change for everyone the time being at least.

**Everyone has been advised to stay at home, if they can, to limit the impact.**

Schools have been ordered to close as part of the public health response and frankly, if we have too many children in school from Monday then we are undermining this response and not only putting children and their families at risk but staff as well.

It is important to underline that schools remain safer places for children (and the staff who look after them) and so the fewer children accessing provision the lower the risk of the virus spreading to vulnerable individuals in your families and the wider society.

**If you have said you need provision I therefore ask you to consider your response again.**

- If you are household with one key worker and one who is not, your child is eligible technically, but can the non-key worker cover child care?
- Will your employer enable you to be home-based for all or part of the time?

*'To transform the future and life chances of our children through experiencing a real, relevant and purposeful curriculum.'*



- Is your employer complying with the Prime Minister's call for giving employees greater flexibility?
- Have you explored all options for child care first?

Coming to school from Monday must be the **last resort** for eligible children, not the first option.

Absolute priority will be given to the children of parents who are working on frontline as part of the response to this national emergency.

I appreciate that this message will not be popular with some, and I am sorry for this. However extraordinary times demand an appropriate response. Adjustments will have to be made to the way we all live and manage our lives for the time being.

I hope that we can come together as a school community to ensure that the government's guidance about staying at home is really taken on board and understood. The fact is that coronavirus kills and so we have to take this advice very seriously.

**If it was not serious we would not be closing.**

I repeat, too many children in school will increase the risk of the virus spreading here and beyond to the vulnerable in your households.

In sharing this I am thinking not just about our children and you, their families, but my team as well. I have a duty of care to them too.

Kind regards

Mrs A Woodhead  
Head Teacher