

Headteacher
Miss Paula Casey

Telephone: 01928 711401



Northwich Road
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 6BZ
Fax: 01928 710661

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Government /LA Advice (see attached letter)

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. Parents need to be clear that the most important contribution they can make is that if you can keep their child at home safely they should even if they are in a key worker, as in many cases they may be able to make alternative arrangements.

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.

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.

School closure and opening as Child Care provision

As you can see Government advice is for **all children** wherever possible to stay at home in order to keep the spread of COVID-19 down. For this reason School is closing and reopening on Monday 23rd March as reduced but essential Child Care provision.

Child Care provision is **only** for **Key Workers** children and only if they choose, they do not have to make use of this facility. The facility is also for more **vulnerable children** on an ECHP plan, Young Carers or who have Social Work involvement.

At present the definition of **Key Worker** only asked for one parent **BUT** the strong advice is not to send your children out, so if a partner is not a Key Worker it is far safer for them to be taking care of the children and not sending them into the Child Care provision. Given the delay in publishing the list of Key Workers, our guidance advises, that we ask parents to inform the school if they believe they meet the key worker criteria and would like their child to be considered for a place in the 'reduced provision'.

If you believe you fall into either of these categories and wish to make use of the Child Care facilities from Monday you must present **evidence** to prove it before your child will be allowed to access this new provision. **This must be in the form of clear evidence from your employer.**



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Children who are making use of this facility must come in via the **School Office**. For the time being, if you require it, children can be dropped off from **8.30am** and must be collected before **4pm**, via the hall door. Children do not wear their uniform and will need to bring in bottled water and a packed lunch (unless they are on Free School meals).

Please help us to carry out this important role and do not misuse this facility when you should be self-isolating. It is only by reducing as many risks as possible that we will be able to fight this disease and return to normal life as soon as possible.

Like I said yesterday, we are all trying to find our way through these very difficult and unknown times. Look after yourselves, your family and each other and let us look forward to a time when all this is over and we can start to enjoy our lives again. Hopefully it is not too long before this happens.

Thank you as always for your support and most especially at this time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paula Casey'.

Paula Casey (Headteacher)

