Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know we have now been told that schools will be closed from Friday for the majority of children. As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing.

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.

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.

We have now been sent the list of eligible key workers for child care provision in schools in the coming weeks. Below is the official list:

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.

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 arms-length bodies.

Food and other 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, National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

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, 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 workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

As a school, how are we going to manage this?
School staff are not immune to becoming ill. It may be necessary to change arrangements or even close the school completely if we do not have enough staff.
At the moment we are not able to open over the Easter Break.

Children should arrive at school at 8.45am and they should be collected at 3.10pm promptly. They do not need to wear school uniform – but should arrive in clothes suitable for outside use. They should also bring a packed lunch and personal water bottle, clearly named. Please make sure we have up to date medication. Please note that the National Curriculum is suspended and the school will not be delivering the usual provision. Please send your child into school with the envelope your child has been given by the class teacher to work through.

In order for us to work out how many of you work in these areas, if you think you are a key worker and you have no other means of caring for your children please complete the attached form and return this to school by 3.30 pm today so that our staff can plan. Due to the exceptional circumstances, the school email address can be used on this occasion. We will be asking for contact details including full name and telephone number of your supervisor/employer so we can confirm that your active role is a necessity in these challenging circumstances. We may also need to get in touch with you via telephone to gain some extra clarification.

We need to know days that supervision will be needed (i.e. all 5 days, only mornings, Mon to Weds etc): This must remain the same each week and needs to be as specific as possible please in order for us to ensure correct levels of staffing.

Yours sincerely,
Miss M. Amery