



Urchfont C. E. Primary School
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19.03.20

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to those parents who contacted us yesterday informing us that one or more parents/guardian was considered a key worker. We have now received the full list as set out by government at midnight last night and as such are looking to finalise what arrangements the school will be able to put into place over the coming weeks.

Schools have been instructed to remain open where possible for children of key workers. We are aware that the Local Authority is in the process of setting up Regional Hubs but until we receive further information regarding this initiative we will try our best to support families. This interim support may be provided at Urchfont School or possibly at one of our other local cluster schools depending on staff availability. As soon as further guidance is issued to schools we will review the situation further and update you accordingly.

The government is asking parents to keep their children at home wherever possible and have asked schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend**. Schools are therefore being asked to provide care for a limited number of children: children who have an EHCP and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

The Government has stated that many parents who are working as key workers may be able to ensure their child is kept at home, and every child who can be cared for at home should be, to minimize the further spread of Covid-19.

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 child/ren will be prioritised for provision at school. As we are a small, rural school the government recognises that this provision will be challenging and therefore not necessarily available or sustainable and are looking to enable alternative provision and transport locally elsewhere if necessary. The staff at Urchfont Primary School will do their best to provide this provision but in order to do so we may have to initially prioritise places if the number of children exceeds our ability to safely open. An example of this would be for families containing two key workers or single parent families.



The key work areas that will be provided for are:

- Health & Social Care
- Education & Childcare
- Key Public Services
- Local & National Government
- Food & other necessary goods
- Public safety and National security
- Transport
- Utilities, communications and financial services

Full details about key workers can be read by following the link below (this information can also be found on our Coronavirus page on the website):

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

If you have any queries we recommend you contact your employer who will be able to provide further advice and guidance.

In the first instance, if you think it will be necessary for your child/ren to attend on Monday or Tuesday next week please let us know as soon as possible, preferably by telephone or email today detailing which days and the occupations of all parents/guardians in the household. We are hoping to then manage the bookings online using the Parents Evening System and parents will be sent a link as soon as it is live. Bookings can still be done via telephone and email where necessary.

If your situation changes and you no longer require your child to attend then we ask that you inform us as soon as you are aware of this. Alternatively, if you find you require additional days then again, please let us know as soon as you can as we cannot guarantee to be able to provide adequate staffing levels if we receive less than 48hrs notice.

On the days that we are able to provide supervision this will be available during what would have been our normal school day (9am – 3.15pm). At the moment it is not expected that the before or after school club will be open. However, if families require an element of wrap-around care, ie: before or after school provision please can they let us know via email or telephone and we will pass this information on to Mrs Cooper who has kindly said that they will review the situation. If they are able to open then the usual booking procedures and fees will apply.



If attending sessions, your child will be expected to bring their learning packs, a packed lunch**, snacks and drink, medication where required, PE kit including trainers (or a spare pair of shoes if already in trainers) and they may come in wearing home clothes. It is important for parents to appreciate that in order to provide this provision, we will need to rely on all staff including those in admin or MDSA roles and as such we will not be providing our usual structured learning activities. Whilst some of the day will be allocated to their home learning packs, staff will also use a variety of other resources to occupy the children which may include DVDs, free learning and games. Children are welcome to bring in age-appropriate (non-internet enabled) toys or devices but the school can take no responsibility for damage or loss.

Please be aware that we may need to cease this arrangement if the government directive changes or other factors come into play such as staff illness or travel restrictions.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C. E. Talbot
(Head Teacher)

**We are working with our catering provider in order to try and provide hot meals for pupils and if this becomes possible we will contact you again.



