



20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware the government have advised that schools must close on Friday 20th March due to the COVID- 19 pandemic. This letter outlines some key details for parents and carers.

The government has asked parents to keep their children at home and for schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. It is important to underline that schools and 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.

Schools are, therefore, 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 safely be cared for at home. Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID 19 response include those who work in health and social care and other key sectors outlined in the government guidance. The link is

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We can continue to provide care for children whose parents are key workers and who meet **ALL** the following conditions:

- The parent must be in a critical role based on government advice - full details of these critical roles are in the link above; **and**
- The parent must have had confirmation from their employer that their specific role is necessary for the continuation of essential public service; **and**
- Their child cannot otherwise be cared for safely at home.

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure that their child is kept at home. Every child that can be safely cared for at home should be.

If your child meets the criteria outlined, and you need your child to attend school please can you email us **immediately** and one of the team will discuss this with you. Once you have let us know that you need to send your child to school, we will send you a form to complete. If you are a key worker, you will be asked to confirm your role, that you are required by your employer and that your child cannot be cared for safely at home.



ISAAC NEWTON ACADEMY

This is such a fast-changing situation, so we will ask parents to re-confirm periodically that you want to send you child into school for what we are calling our 'Community Classrooms.'

Exams

Exams are cancelled in May and June and the Secretary of State for Education says he will provide further information soon for students who are impacted. As soon as we have this information, we will share it with you.

Free school meals

We will make sure that families of students who qualify for Free School Meals have information on our plans to provide food for children as soon as we have finalised them.

Learning at home

It is not possible to fully replicate the educational experience at home. We have been working hard for several weeks to put in place contingency plans to ensure students can still access work and teachers are able to support their learning.

Instructions around how to complete learning are in the letter regarding school closure.

Staying healthy

While schools are closed, we should all continue to follow health guidance.

Find out how to protect yourself here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For further information on the government response, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We will continue to update you on any developments via email / text and with regular updates on the school website.

This is an unsettling and disruptive time for everyone and we will work together as a school and local community to face the challenging times ahead. Thank you for your support and understanding during these exceptional circumstances. If we can do anything more to help your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Jo Spencer
Interim Principal



Government Guidance

Government Guidance on Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

Government Guidance on 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 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 employees (including support staff), 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 (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 workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.