



20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please can I apologise for the timing of this letter which I hoped to send you yesterday. Despite assurances from Government that we would have the list of Key Worker groups yesterday, we only received it this morning.

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update **Provision for Children of Key Workers**

As you know schools will **close indefinitely from Monday 23rd March for MOST children.**

The decision to close schools to most children is to reduce the numbers of people (children and adults) who will be together, **to reduce the spread of Coronavirus.**

Schools are to remain open for children whose parents are identified as Key Workers, **when they are at work.** Government advice states: Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Parents who are Key Workers do not have to take up this offer if they are able or would prefer to make other arrangements for their children.

The government have finally released the list of Key Worker groups as follows:

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 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 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, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service

The government have confirmed that as long as **one** parent in classified as a Key Worker their children are eligible to attend school. If you believe you fall into one of these groups **and** you would like your child to continue to attend please contact school with the following information:

Child's name
Form Class
Key Worker name
Occupation
Employer
Employer Address

You can do this by completing the Parentmail reply form
via email: info@stmacademy.org.uk
or by telephone on 2588340

Please will you inform us by today, Friday 1.00pm to enable us to plan for next week.
We will then contact those parents who are eligible with arrangements for next week.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Watson
Headteacher