



Kea Community Primary School

20 March 2020

School closure update

Dear Parents and Carers

I'm sure you will have heard announcement from the government with their list of key workers whose children can remain coming to school. The list is more extensive than originally thought and includes: frontline in health and social care, education and childcare, key public services (justice and religious services), food and other necessary goods, public safety and national security, transport, utilities, communications and financial services. See link below for more information.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/20/key-worker-official-list-of-uk-personnel-who-can-still-send-children-to-school>

We have a number of staff who need to self-isolate for health reasons and for the health of their families, and others who are currently isolating for 14 days due to cough or temperature in their family. In order that we can retain adequate staffing levels, while at the same time protecting school staff, reducing their own risks to exposure by enabling them to work from home some of the time, we will be operating a skeleton staff. Normal lessons will not be taught; we will be delivering child care rather than ordinary teaching and children will mostly be completing work which has been set by their teachers in advance.

I know that some key workers don't work every day; I know that many people who work in schools will be spending some days working at home for instance. With that in mind, please avoid sending your child to school unless absolutely necessary. Please complete the attached form indicating days (for next week only in the first instance) when your child/ren will need to come to school.

In order to assist kitchen staff with their planning, please indicate on the form whether your child/ren will be likely to require a school meal on each particular day.

I know that a number of families of key workers will be significantly affected by the closure of Kea Pre-School who provide wrap around care for their children every day and also holiday club in the Easter holidays. Please indicate this on the form too. I am unsure about our staffing levels and whether we will be able to provide all of these services yet, but we will do all we can to support everyone at this challenging time. **It would be helpful if you could return the form as soon as possible so that we can plan staffing for next week – ideally by lunchtime today.** It would also be helpful if you could let us know if your child/ren will definitely be at home next week.

I am aware that while the country is at crisis point, parents and pupils are also anxious about their children's education and the fact that they will be missing so much learning. Please be assured that we will do everything possible in the coming terms to provide as much catch up support as possible.

Thank you so much for all your support and kind words this week – it has really helped to keep our spirits up.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Hunkin
Headteacher