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20th March 2020

Re: Coronavirus Update- School Closure

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Following on from my letter last night to inform you that **we have been instructed to close the school to almost all children after today until further notice,**

We have been told to follow these key principles:

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them- Mrs Brodie or myself will contact you today
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

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 children will be prioritised for education provision:

The key workers have been identified as:

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 you have not already emailed to inform us please do so as soon as possible and preferably by 12noon today. The guidance states that both parents/carers will need to be key workers unless you are a single key worker parent. **Although this is the advice, we are also aiming to have as few children in school as possible as we are all safer if we minimise social contact. If one parent who is a key worker has a partner who is not working or can work at home, we would expect you to keep your children at home.** Some parents whose children are in these categories may be able to make arrangements for their children not to be in school. This is to reduce the spread of the virus as much as possible by reducing the numbers of children and staff in schools to a minimum. **No parents/carers are required to send their children to school at this time.**

We are still waiting further information on the free school meal voucher system but it is likely that we will be emailing or posting these. For children who are in school, meals will be as usual - free if entitled, paid or on packed lunch. We will continue to provide Family Packs to those needing them and they are available for collection throughout the day.

In addition, please bear in mind that this childcare provision for key workers will remain subject to the school having sufficient staff available to enable them to remain open. If staff numbers fall, we may have to prioritise who places can be offered to. Further support for provision may then be offered through the Local Authority.

If you feel that your role is a key worker and **ONLY** if you will need urgent support with childcare to enable you to do your job, please email the following to me on homelearning@eastway.wirral.sch.uk by 12 noon today at the latest:

Name of pupil:

Class:

Phone Number:

I believe I am a key worker employed as:

Place of employment:

Home Learning Packs will be coming home with all children who are in school today, if you still haven't got yours, please call in to the school office if you can or arrange for someone to collect. We also have Family Packs if any family is struggling for basic food, these can also be collected from our school office.

At the end of the day today, we will leave books on the playgrounds and outside gates, if you or anyone you know in the community would benefit from them, please feel free to take them.

All staff will be in school on Monday to deal with any queries and the school office will be open as normal but we will be exercising very strict rules around social distancing. Take care and let us know if we can help

Yours sincerely,

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Mrs Emily Morris
Headteacher