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Headteacher: Mr. R. Stuart-Sheppard NPQH, LLE



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Our understanding of the Government advice is that schools are closing so as to limit the spread of the Covid19 virus. Alongside this, they expressed a desire to see schools accommodate requests from key workers who need their children looked after.

We received the form from the Local Authority this morning and shared this with parents.

It is important to note one key line in the government's FAQs: "Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so."

Given the delay in publishing the list of Key Workers, it is unlikely that we will be ready to provide the reduced offer from Monday. At this time, I am expecting that the school will close this evening and **not reopen on Monday**, and that the school will contact parents directly if they are to be offered a place within the reduced provision. We will move quickly, but at a pace to avoid chaos and confusion at the school gate.

It is worth noting the Government advice this morning is that parents should keep their children at home, wherever possible, and that they've asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. As such, if you are a key worker but you are able to keep your child at home because there is another family member available to look after your child, then we would not expect to be receiving your child at school.

We are seeking urgent clarification on these matters today, so that we can plan accordingly for providing this new service for essential workers in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

*R Stuart-Sheppard*

R. Stuart-Sheppard  
Headteacher

