



This is a joint communication for Parents and Carers who have children attending Knights Enham Junior School and Knights Enham Nursery and Infant School.

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

This letter provides an update to the general school closures following advice from the Local Authority. It details how the Knights Enham Schools are continuing provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children.

Schools will close at the end of today and there is no expectation that pupils will then attend school until the advice from Government changes.

Emergency Service

While our schools will be closed for general admissions, all schools across the country are being asked to run an emergency service for the children of key workers who are critical to the Covid-19 response.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. 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.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then provision based in school may be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions for their childcare.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. Children should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for provision in school:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Details about the identified groups can be found here:

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

There is no expectation that children of these key workers have to attend school. Schools have been asked to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools 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.

The Government is also asking that we provide provision and support for children who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and children who have a social worker assigned to the family.

Again, there is no requirement that children in these groups have to come to school. **Once again, this provision should only be utilised if it is absolutely necessary in order to maintain the vital elements of the national social distancing policy.**

Online materials and learning

For those children who will be at home from Monday morning, there will be online resources available to support children to continue to learn. Learning tasks will be posted on our websites as regularly as possible and efforts are being made to provide all children with an initial paper based pack (for some children this will be delivered to your home in the coming week). In addition, the BBC has said that it will be increasing its range of resources to support children's education. We will also post links to other online resources which may be useful during this time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support through these unprecedented times. Please be assured that we will continue to update you as the situation changes and that we will continue to work for the best interests of the children at our school.

Please ring your child's school ASAP to alert us if you have no other option but to send your child to school IF you fall into one of the identified groups. If we do not hear from you by 2:30pm this afternoon, we will assume that your child will be remaining at home.

Please remember that if it is at all possible for your children to be at home they should be.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Beazley
Headteacher
Knights Enham Nursery and Infant School

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Knights Enham Junior School