

# ASHFIELD VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



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20/3/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am very sad to say that today will be the last day in school for most of our children for the foreseeable future. Please be assured that in these extraordinary times we will do our very best for our families.

Please read the following very carefully:

**1. As of Friday 3.15pm School will be closed until further notice from the Government. The government is clear that those children who can stay at home, should.**

**2. Schools have been given information about which children we may identify as needing to be in school during this period:**

- Children who have an existing Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- Children whose families have current Social worker involvement

We will offer care to these children, if required, and the children of parents who work in a 'key worker role'.

**3. We urgently need you to tell us (with evidence) if you fall into the category of a key worker AND if you intend to take the place.**

I am urgently requesting parents to respond to us by contacting school if you think that you **may be eligible** to qualify as a Key worker under the government definition:

- Workers in the health service
- Workers in education
- Workers in Social care
- Workers in law enforcement
- Workers in distribution
- Workers in Utilities, communication and financial services; Staff required to keep oil, gas, electricity, water and sewerage operations running. Staff in the civil nuclear, chemical and telecommunications sectors. Those in postal services and those working to provide essential financial services
- Key public services

- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods-Those involved in the production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of food
- Public safety - Police, support staff, Ministry of Defence civilian staff and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue staff, and those responsible for border security, prisons and probation.
- Transport; Those who will keep air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response

I understand how frustrating this has been for everyone, and how worried everyone is about many things right now.

**School will be contacting you by phone to tell you that you may bring your child into school if we are able to offer your child a place during this time. If you are not contacted please do not bring your child to school as it will cause distress for your child, yourself and staff.**

I have been advised by the authority to work from this list for Monday and await updates. If it changes at any point parents will be notified immediately.

Under guidance from the Local Authority, places for children to attend school will be offered to parents/carers. You will need to validate that you are in one of the categories. **If you cannot do so please do not bring your child to school.**

#### **4. Plan for Monday;**

- a) Please bring the eligible children to the main office at 8.50am. We will be asking you to verify that your work qualifies as a key worker role. **Please do not come if your work does not fit the definition of a key worker role- it will cause distress to you, your child and to us to have to turn you away.**
- b) If your child is eligible for a free school meal, one will be provided
- c) Lunch for other children – grab bags will be available
- d) If you'd rather your child bring their own packed lunch that is of course fine.
- e) The school day will end at 3.15

**5. Children who are entitled to Free School Meals:** Please ring school by 9.45 on Monday to order a free school meal for the week. This will consist of a sandwich, fruit, biscuit and water. Sandwich choices are: tuna, egg, cheese or cucumber.

#### **6. This is the link to the current government guidance for parents/carers;**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

**7. If you do not wish to take up a place** even if you are on the current list please let school know as we may then be able to offer a space to someone else. If one child in your family has an EHCP plan this does not entitle all of the siblings to come into school, sadly.

**8. If you or your child does qualify but are currently in social isolation, the period of isolation must run its course before you bring your child to school**

As you know all of this has been a rush for everyone due to the lack of clarification from the Government. I realise that asking at such short notice for parents/carers to try to sort this out will be stressful. I have been advised that it may not be possible, given the time frame, to let everyone know by Monday but all staff and myself will be working tirelessly to support and let you know what is happening as soon as we can.

Thank you again for all of your patience and kind words in this difficult time, please stay safe and look after each other.

Kindest regards

H Edge