

Dear Parents & Carers

Important Update for Key Workers Only – Coronavirus (Covid-19)

The government have released some guidance about the partial closure of schools which starts on Monday 23rd March. Please read the detail below carefully.

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.** That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open **only for those children who absolutely need to attend.** 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.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

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 in this link:

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

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.**

The government are asking parents to 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 will be available for them.
3. 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.
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. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

What this means for parents of Northumberland PRU pupils -

It is anticipated that the overwhelming majority of children **will not** attend school after Friday 20th March until further notice.

If your child is classed as vulnerable, **the school will contact you to find out if you will require the reduced provision school will be offering.**

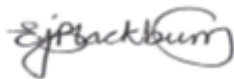
If you are a parent whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response carefully consider whether you are able to keep your child at home. **Remember every child who can be safely cared for at home**

should be. I am stressing this because if we have a high number of pupils attending without being able to provide adequate staffing, we may have to re-consider remaining open. If you are in a key worker category – please inform school on 01670 514963 by 4pm Friday 20th March to enable us to plan for Monday.

I can only provide this provision if I have enough staff and will be reviewing the situation daily to ensure the safeguarding of pupils and staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to show my appreciation to my amazing staff team for their hard work and dedication during this uncertain time and thank them for their continued efforts in providing education for our pupils.

Kind regards



Emma Blackburn

Acting Head Teacher