



GUSTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

COVID-19 Update Key Workers

1st April 2020

Dear Parents and carers

I hope you are all managing OK in this challenging time and not finding things too overwhelming.

As you know, guidance for schools and colleagues on maintaining educational provision has been published and in line with the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 they advise that ***“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”***.

The guidance identifies ***“parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response and these are 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.”***

In order for us to communicate effectively with our Key Worker parents, we would like those families to identify themselves as key workers (falling into the groups below), to email admin@guston.kent.sch.uk with a letter from your employer confirming that based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of an essential public service and are critical to the COVID-19 operation. If you have already done this you do not need to do this again.

Once we have a list of our Key Worker families we will be able to send targeted communication to you and enable you to book for emergency childcare provision in Term 5, if you are unable to keep them safe at home.

Please can you ensure we have the information required by 8th April, giving us time to collate our data and agree provision.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Day

Key Worker

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:

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 arm's 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 workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should **confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.*** This means although you might fall into this category your role may not be critical to the operation in responding to COVID-19.