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Our Ref: ALS/HMH

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

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 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. This is the latest government advice, published this morning.

**In summary, if your children can be safely cared for at home, please do not send them to school from Monday.**

Attendance at school is no longer compulsory and schools nationally are closed from this afternoon for the vast majority of students. It must be incredibly frustrating if you do not meet the 'qualifying criteria' outlined and you would like us to care for your children. However, I must ask for us all to work together for the greater good in this time of crisis.

My staff are fabulous and are proud and prepared to do their bit for society. However, they have their own families. They are not immune to COVID-19. Let's remember that's why the government is taking these extreme measures. In saying that, we are willing and ready to look after those children who meet the criteria.

Criteria for Children who can come to school on Monday and cannot be safely cared for at home are:

- 'vulnerable students' (those who are who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with an Education, Health and Care Plan)
- Children of 'critical workers' Only one parent/carer needs to be a 'critical worker' to qualify.

If we know that your child does not meet either of these criteria and you send them to school, we reserve the right to send them home.

Students who do come to school will be required to wear school uniform. They will be supervised while they complete the work being set by their teachers and will be able to use the school canteen as normal albeit with a much reduced selection.

We are currently working on a plan to provide meals for all our Free School Meal students. We will continue to make contact with students and parents/carers throughout the closure. We thank you once again for your continued support, understanding and patience in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Annabel Stoddart  
**Headteacher**

*Everyone a Learner Everyone Learning*