

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

Thank you for your co-operation over the past week. We are in unprecedented times and we are very grateful to you for your ongoing support.

The Government has finally released the definition of key worker status to us this morning. This information 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>

In this guidance, the Government has outlined the following 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 educational 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.

For the safety of our staff and pupils, it is essential that you follow the above advice. Not doing so may put others within our community at risk.

It is important to underline that schools remain safe places for children. 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.**

If there is someone at home, your children should stay at home with them as this will be a safer environment than being around others in school.

I understand that this is a very challenging time and many workers are struggling to plan support for their children or are concerned about how they will continue working at home with their child/children at home too. Despite this, the health of staff and the children that need to be in school must not be unduly affected in providing care for children whose parents are working from home.

We will therefore be following the guidance and asking key workers to gain written confirmation from employers that their role is critical to the Covid-19 response. We will not need this on day 1 but please do arrange for this to be completed ASAP.

If numbers exceed our capacity for a safe provision, we will prioritise on the following circumstances (as suggested by the National Association for Head Teachers):

1. Pupils the adult members of the household are NHS frontline staff e.g. doctors and nurses
2. Pupils who have a social worker or are known to the school to be extremely vulnerable

From Monday, we will be opening Foxborough Primary School and Trevelyan Middle School in providing a childcare provision. Upton Court Grammar School WILL NOT be open. Any Upton Court Grammar School pupils who need a childcare provision will need to attend either Foxborough Primary School OR Trevelyan. The schools will be open from 8.00am to 5.00pm daily.

If all adult members of your household are key workers and critical to the Covid-19 response (as defined in the Government guidance), then please complete the Form that can be found [HERE](#) EVEN IF you completed the Form sent yesterday. This is to ensure that we have a complete record and know which school your child will attend (in the case of Upton Court Grammar School students).

The deadline for this is midday on Saturday 21st March.

This will allow us to create a register of pupils, ready for Monday, to ensure that children are safely recorded as on site.

We will contact families directly on Sunday 22nd March to confirm arrangements for Monday.

To reiterate, the number of children in school needs to be kept to an absolute minimum to try and negate the spread of the virus.

Please heed the Government advice and do not risk the health and safety of our staff, our pupils and their families, unless it is vital for the child to be in school.

Yours faithfully,



M. Pritchard
Headteacher