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Head of School Mrs S Sullivan

Friday 20 March

Dear Parents/Carers,

Overnight, we have received the updated advice from the government about how schools will support key workers to be able to work, and how we can protect the most vulnerable.

The action by the government is also about social limiting 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.**

Attendance is now closed as it would be for any school closure – you will not be penalised for keeping children at home during this time.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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 the 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 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.**

Please, therefore, 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 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.
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.

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 arms 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 you believe that you fall within the critical categories above you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

If our school has to close for any reason, such as lack of staff/a virus outbreak then please [contact the local authority](#), who will seek to redirect you to a local school in our area that your child, or children, can attend.

We would ask that you let us know by 2pm at the latest today whether you fall in to these categories and will require childcare so that we can prepare our registers for next week.

Please complete the survey and send back to us via office@kingsnorth.kent.sch.uk or complete online here - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9YQL5XQ> and explain your situation. We will send a letter out later today to the people who are needing to be in school on Monday regarding times, lunches etc.

We still intend to provide lunches for these children during this time. Our menu will be restricted due to limitations in resourcing this. We will inform you as things change.

We expect all children attending in-school provision to be in uniform and display the highest standards of behaviour for the safety and well-being of all the children and staff present. If this is not the case, we may be forced to withdraw the offer of in-school support.

Obviously, the task of keeping the school running efficiently will be a mammoth operation, so please avoid coming into the school - we are currently restricting visitors into the building.

Our whole community is in our thoughts and prayers. We hope you are all able to see your way through the next period of time with minimal difficulty and we look forward very much to when our school can be reunited and return to normal. That time will come and we will be ready! Also, a huge thank you to all the key workers, blue light workers, NHS staff and those keeping things running!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, **but** please remember that we are also receiving a high volume of enquiries and may not be able to get back to you immediately.

Best wishes,

Iain Witts
Executive Headteacher
Kingsnorth and Brenzett CEPs

Chris Myers
Chair of Governors
Kingsnorth and Brenzett CEPs

Request for child to continue to attend school

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Name of child: | Year group: |
| Name of parent/carer: | Contact details (email ideally): |
| Reason for request (delete as appropriate): My child has an EHCP/Social Worker or I am a key worker | |
| Name of social worker: | |
| If you are a key worker - Are you a single parent at home on your own? Yes / No | |
| If you are a key worker - Are both parents/carers key workers? Yes / No | |
| If because you are a key worker: Occupation: Role: Employer: | Parent/carer #2 Occupation: Role: Employer: |
| Lunches – will you want a school meal? Yes / No | |
| My child is eligible for Free School Meals: Yes / No | |

We regret very much having to put these arrangements in place and we thank you for your understanding and forbearance. We would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank all our wonderful colleagues who have worked so hard this week to allow us to keep our school open.

Our whole community is in our thoughts and prayers. We hope you are all able to navigate the next period of time with minimal difficulty and we look forward very much to when our school can be reunited and return to normal.

That time will come and we will be ready!