

Cupernham Infant School

Together we care, we learn and we enjoy success

Headteacher: Mr Duncan Wells



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Coronavirus update – Key Workers and Vulnerable Children

Firstly, thank you for all your kind messages of support, our thoughts continue to be with you and your families at this very difficult.

Cupernham Infant School will close at the end of Friday 20th March and there is no expectation that pupils will then attend school until the advice from Government changes.

I'm sure that you will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement on Wednesday 18th March about general school closures but continuing provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children. To help everyone navigate this tricky issue, they have, this morning, produced an overview and general guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Emergency Service

While our school will be closed for general admissions, all schools across the country are being asked to run an emergency service for the children of key workers in essential services so that they are able to continue to work. This morning, we received the list of key workers from the Government. Only children of key workers – those considered critical to the country's response to the coronavirus pandemic – and vulnerable pupils, will attend school for the foreseeable future. It has also been confirmed, that children will be eligible to attend school even if just one parent or carer is identified as a "critical worker".

Further information with a more detailed list of who is regarded as a critical worker 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>

Please read this information to see whether you are regarded as a critical worker under this guidance and therefore able to request a place within the school's reduced provision. Whilst there will be an educational element to this provision, it will essentially be of a 'childcare' nature.

Bransley Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7JT

Tel & fax: 01794 514494 Email: adminoffice@cupernham-inf.hants.sch.uk

www.cupernhaminfant.com

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
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

At first reading, and in discussion with my Headteacher colleagues, it is clear that this list of critical workers is much broader than was originally expected. On Wednesday, the Minister for Education stated that the intention was to keep the school numbers to 10% of their normal numbers to enable the school closures to have a beneficial impact on the prevention of virus spread. Government have more broadly mentioned that this could potentially be up to 20% of the normal school number. We therefore have to be very mindful not to undermine the point of the school closure in the first place!

With this in mind, we are respectfully asking parents to be very mindful when requesting provision for their child and to do so only if it is essential to them being able to continue to work in that critical job. The guidance above clearly states;

‘Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.’

There is **no expectation** that children of these key workers have to attend school. If you fall into this group and are able to make other arrangements, then you are welcome to do so.

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

How do I request a place?

If, on this basis, you feel that you need to request a place in school for your child, and have not already contacted the office, please contact the school with the following information by 12 noon today.

- 1. Child’s Name & Class**
- 2. Your Name.**
- 3. Your job and details where this fits into the critical list if not immediately obvious.**
- 4. Whether one or both parents have a critical role.**
- 5. Whether the role is full time or part-time and if so, on what days.**

This information should be sent by email to: adminoffice@cupernham-inf.hants.sch.uk

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If you are unable to email, please contact the school office on 01794 514494. Once we have received your request we will then contact you by 5pm today to confirm whether or not a place has been allocated for you on Monday. Whilst we will endeavour to provide a place for everyone who requests one, we may need to prioritise numbers. **Please do not send your child in to school on Monday unless you have had confirmation from the School for them to attend.**

Vulnerable Groups

The Government is also asking that we continue to provide education and support for our most vulnerable children **who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP)**, children **who have a social worker assigned to the family**, those from **families receiving Early Help** and **children receiving support from the Primary Behaviour Service.**

Again, there is **no requirement** that children of these groups have to come to school, but they will be welcome should parents or carers choose this option.

Home to School Transport

The County Council will continue to make home to school transport available to those children that are eligible to receive it. In some instances, that might require some changes to be made which may take a little time. We expect further information from the Local Authority if this is the case and will provide you with this as soon as we have it.

Online materials and learning

For those children who will be at home from Monday morning, as I set out in my letter yesterday, there will be online resources available to support children to continue to learn. These can be found on our website under 'Home Learning'. In addition, the BBC has said that it will be increasing its range of resources to support children's education.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support through these unprecedented times. Please be assured that I will continue to update you as the situation changes and that we will continue to work for the best interests of the children at our school.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Duncan Wells, Headteacher.

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