



## Great Bardfield Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Alison Kerrell

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will know from the government announcements this week, our school will sadly be closing at the end of the day today. However, we will be continuing to provide care for a **limited number** of children from Monday 23rd March.

The Prime Minister has been clear this week, on the need to have social distancing in place, to control the spread of Covid-19. It goes without saying that the fewer the children coming in to school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in society.

This will therefore require us to prioritise which children we can welcome in to school from Monday, according to the greatest need. This is not about **'entitlement'** it is about us all doing the right thing for the greater good of society.

Government guidance is clear on this:

***'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.'***

Also from the guidance:

***'Please, therefore, follow these key principles:***

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.'***



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **The list of Key Workers:**

### **Health and social care**

**Frontline** health and social care staff such as doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, as well as support and specialist staff in the health and social care sector. In addition, it includes those working in supply chains including producers and distributors of medicines and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

Nursery, teaching staff and social workers

### **Key public services**

Those required to run the justice system, religious staff, as well as those responsible for managing the deceased, and journalists providing public service broadcasting.

### **Local and national government**

Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response or delivering essential public services, including payment of benefits.

### **Food and other necessary goods**

Those involved in the production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of food.

### **Public safety and national security**

Police, support staff, Ministry of Defence civilian staff and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue staff, and those responsible for border security, prisons and probation.

### **Transport**

Those who will keep air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response.

### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

Staff required to keep oil, gas, electricity, water and sewerage operations running. Staff in the civil nuclear, chemical and telecommunications sectors. Those in postal services and those working to provide essential financial services.

### **The link to the full document is included below:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We will now be asking you to complete a form if you think you meet the criteria for childcare over the coming weeks. We will consider all requests and make a decision by the end of the day today. This decision will take into account the school's ability to manage and sustain provision for those

**who need it the most.** We ask it be returned by 1pm today so that we have the afternoon to arrange our provision for Monday.

### **What will the provision look like in school?**

This is a very different type of provision than schools usually provide; for these children, it will be about care, **not education**. This will be about keeping children safe and allowing Key Workers to go to work and care for the sick, keep our country safe or to keep food supply chains and essential utilities moving. **If you are in the teaching profession, I would ask that if possible, you keep your children with you at your educational setting.**

It remains the case that if we do not have enough staff to care for the children safely, then, subject to a risk assessment and consultation with the chair of governors, a full closure may still be necessary. **This decision will be reviewed daily.**

### **Planning and timetabling.**

As the situation develops, the school will be taking a four-phase approach to how we will be operating the school:

- 1, Monday 23rd March
2. The next two weeks
3. The Easter Holidays
4. The Summer Term.

Schools have been put in a very difficult position by this announcement but we are happy to help those in **GREATEST** need. We must manage the best we can, with the **limited** staff we have and we must **all** consider others at this difficult time. I know that our parents will not take advantage of the challenging position that the school finds itself in. We are happy to support Key Workers in the vital work that they are doing whilst still maintaining the health of our own school staff so that ultimately we do not have to close the school, should staff numbers become too low to care for the children safely.

**Key Workers-Please keep your children at home if possible. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

Therefore, if you believe that you are a Key Worker and that you **CANNOT** care for your child at home ie: there is **NO** other childcare avenue open to you, then please complete the form that we will be sending out. We will require evidence such as an ID badge or pay slip to show that you are in this Key Worker category. If you work shifts please indicate on the form which days you will require childcare for. Please return the form to [admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk)

The office is very busy dealing with this situation today so please only telephone or email if it is an emergency or is absolutely necessary.

Kindest regards

*Mrs Kerrell*

Mrs Kerrell  
Headteacher  
Great Bardfield Primary School