

Barnes Farm Junior School

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20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

The Government has directed our school to guide parents using the following 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.

Following the announcement from the Government yesterday, this is to confirm that Barnes Farm Junior is closed to all pupils from Monday 23rd March 2020 until further notice, with the following exceptions:

- Children who have an EHCP
- Children who have a social worker
- Children of parents/carers classed as 'Key Workers' (please see list of Key Workers overpage)

If your child falls into one of these categories and you have **no other childcare** available then please register with the School Closure Event on ParentPay as a matter of urgency. If we do not hear from you we will assume that your child will not be attending school. The guidance from the government is very clear **that children who fall into one of the above categories should only come into school as a last resort if no other childcare is available.**

All other children are to remain at home and not to come into school until further notice. For children at home, I wrote to you yesterday to explain our provision for accessing work and we will be communicating this later via eschools.

These are incredibly difficult times for everyone and I would like to thank all parents/carers for the support we have received. We will continue to communicate with the whole school community over the coming weeks to keep you updated as best as we can.

Regards,

Ross McTaggart
Executive Headteacher



Key Worker List

If workers think they fall within the critical categories below, they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

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.

