

Friday 20th March, 2020

RE:- School Opening for key workers

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. As promised, I now have more information to share with you and sincere apologies for the delay in getting this to you.

We now have the update from the Government regarding how schools will work, moving forwards from Monday.

The guidelines we all need to follow are:

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- **If there is no choice, we will provide support for vulnerable children (those children supported by Children's Services), children with an EHCP and any child who has a parent that is a critical worker (see below).**
- **Parents should not rely on childcare from members of their family with health issues and those who are elderly and apply social distancing.**
- **Children should apply the same social distancing rules as adults and not mix in a way that could spread the virus.**

The school remains open for families who cannot keep their child at home and are either:

- **children who are supported by Social Services**
- **children with an EHCP**
- **children of a parent who is a critical worker**

The Government cannot list every possible critical worker and if you are unsure, please get in touch.

Critical workers fall into categories from the following sectors:

- **Health and Social Care:** front line workers, including volunteers and those who are producing medical supplies and medicines. People who keep the NHS and health and social care system up and running.
- **Education and Childcare:** any nursery or school staff and those who are social workers.
- **Key Public Services:** those running frontline services such as police, religious staff and journalists who provide information. There is less detail here so please call us to discuss.
- **Local and national government:** only administration roles supporting the COVID-19 response and government bodies who keep the services running e.g. payment of benefits.



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- **Food, goods and hygiene:** those who are involved in producing, selling and delivering food and also hygiene services, e.g. refuse collectors and also veterinary services.
- **Public safety and national security:** police, probation staff, border control, fire services, armed forces, national security roles and those involved in the COVID-19 response.
- **Transport:** those supporting air, road, rail and water transport systems.
- **Utilities, financial and communication services:** essential financial services, e.g. banks and building societies; workers from the oil, gas and electricity sector; IT and data infrastructure sector; those 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.

Full details 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>

We can also offer support for families facing social difficulties and we will contact you individually if it applies.

If you are able to keep your child at home with you and would not rely on the care from people in vulnerable groups, then please do not send them to school.

We will continue to provide Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs (for those of you who are already signed up) but there will be no charge. If due to COVID-19 your work patterns change, come and talk to us about before and after school care.

During this period, we will not charge parents for booked additional sessions in our nursery. This applies to those families who are able to attend and also those who cannot.

The Government has asked schools to continue to provide care during what would have been the Easter holidays and we will do this for eligible children.

To help us plan, we need to know how many children will need to access nursery or school. **Please click on the link below and fill in the form.** If you do not have access to emails, we will telephone you for that information.

<https://forms.gle/7e3JWsaT7g9P3Cho9>

Some of you are currently self-isolating and may be able to attend in the future; please can you also complete the form above.

Next week, there will be a hot lunch and dessert provided free of charge, every day for all children attending school. Children can still bring a packed lunch if they wish. If you have received a hamper from us, we will still provide these lunches.



While the choices will be limited, we will of course still be taking into account dietary requirements. We will review this each week and update you again as we respond to the Government's guidance on free school meals.

These are such new and strange times and we cannot believe that we will be saying goodbye to so many pupils today without knowing exactly when we will see them again. We will take each day as it comes but we are looking at ways we can all stay connected as a school family and how we can make use of the virtual world so please watch this space. Where we can, we will continue to be on the end of the telephone and email. We all just have to work a little bit differently for a little while.

There is so much speculation on social media and in the press. Please do not let this worry you. Keep checking our website and emails and we will keep you informed.

Our amazing Y6 children may not get the opportunity to come back to school - we just do not know. We would never let our children move on without a big farewell! Whatever happens, we will try to ensure that our Y6 pupils get the send-off that they deserve. We just do not know when, how or where but we will celebrate them and their journey through our school in some way if at all possible.

We will not be setting up virtual classrooms or asking for school work to be submitted. This is just not manageable for families and heavily reliant on internet connections and access to devices. However, we will posting lots of activities , some web-based and some not, on our websites. These are optional and we do not need parents to submit work back to teachers. We will keep updating them and they can be found here from 3pm today onwards.

<https://ilsham-lap.co.uk/parents/supporting-families/>

For those of you who are unable to attend, please keep in touch. Check our website, your email in-box and Twitter. We will continue to send emails and stay in touch for as long as we are open.

Thank you for understanding and thank you for pulling together as a community. Please do follow the Government guidelines and please do consider how you will apply social distancing and minimise mixing with others so that we can protect the vulnerable members of our community. We are in this together and we can do this.

I will keep sending letters, messages and communication and we will continue to be a strong community. It just may look a little different for the next few days and weeks ahead.

Sending best wishes to you and your families

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S.A. Ryan'.

Miss Ryan (*on behalf of the Ilsham team*)

Head of Academy