



Monday 23rd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: School closures and key worker children attendance

Thank you for your actions in keeping children home from school wherever possible. It is vital that we keep numbers as low as possible to prevent further infections spreading in our community.

The Government advice is to:



We have much reduced numbers today, so again, thank you for your support, but ideally this would be even less. If you can keep children at home, then please do so with immediate effect. Remember that children should not be out playing with friends, attending parties or other gatherings and they should be at home wherever possible.

The 'Home Learning Packs' are now available from the School Life app and also on the school website on a newly created 'Home Learning' page.

If you are considering sending in an application for a Key Worker childcare place, then firstly – please don't unless you have absolutely no other form of childcare available. Secondly, please contact the school office by phone to speak to someone about this and they will take down your details. Please see the attached information on underlying health concerns. Pupils with any of these concerns including asthma for example, should NOT be in school as they are more at risk.

We may also ask for proof of working hours and letters from employers to show us that you actually require a place and for how long etc. We are not trying to be difficult, we are simply making sure that only the children absolutely needing to be here actually are. This is in line with Government guidance.

Please remember that all children who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) will have one prepared if they need one so please contact the school office if you need this. New applications for FSM can be made at any time – this may be particularly relevant if people are working reduced hours etc.

Key Worker's children will need to bring in their own healthy break time snack and will have a 'Grab Bag' lunch provided if required. This will be reviewed by Dudley Catering Services in due course once the situation has settled down.

From tomorrow we will only be contacting Key Worker parents and carers to give out further information, unless it is relevant to all parents. This is to save your inboxes being filled with irrelevant information. We will be in touch with all parents and carers in due course when we have any further information.

In the meantime, please take good care of yourselves and each other. Make sure that you follow all of the advice from the Government, don't stockpile and possibly set up some support groups in your street. One idea that works well is for little cards with kind hearted people's contact numbers on them, to be posted through the doors of vulnerable people (or everyone in a street) – this could be used to create a group WhatsApp account or simply give people someone they can contact if they need anything. Please consider the elderly and vulnerable as the next 12 weeks is likely to be very lonely and scary for some people. Let's all pull together. We will see you on the other side!

Best wishes

Mr P Rawlings

Headteacher