

## Badgerbrook Primary School



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents & Carers

We have today received further guidance from the government regarding school closures to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, schools will be closed to the majority of pupils until further notice. However schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children – children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

The government has already given clear guidance on self-isolation and social distancing.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in society.

Many parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response will be able to ensure their child is kept at home.

**Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

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

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

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 provision of care.

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

This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

My aim will be to keep the number of children attending as low as possible in order to reduce the spread of the virus. It is highly likely I will need to prioritise families where **both parents** are key workers. This is why we now need you to fill in the attached form to give full details about both parents.

The government is asking us to remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children **where we can**. We may not be able to do this, especially if we experience severe

staff shortages. If it becomes necessary for Badgerbrook to close completely due to staff shortages you will be advised to contact the local authority who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children can attend.

Badgerbrook, as an education setting, will be closed from Friday evening. The school will be open only as a care setting. Children in school will not be receiving education, they will be supervised in shared age group bases. From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we hope to be able to provide four bases for children who are receiving care in school. However, this will be dependent on staff availability. Please be aware diminishing staff numbers will affect our ability to keep social distance between children in school.

To support all children parents will receive a regular email, with learning task, attachments and appropriate links. Each pupil will be given a home learning book to record their work. This will be the same for all children whether at home or offered a place for care at school.

Thank you for your continued understanding in this unprecedented situation.

Kind regards



Ms A Meyrick

Headteacher

*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***

*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.*

Please complete the following information and email (office@badgerbrook.leics.sch.uk) or return it to school as soon as possible:-

**Name of child/children:**

**Current class:**

**Name of parent (1):**

**Occupation:**

**Confirmation that is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed:**

**Name of parent (2):**

**Occupation:**

**Confirmation that is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed:**