



23rd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

On Friday 20th March the government issued further guidance to schools and parents.

The key principles outlined were:

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

The government says that 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.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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 wider society.

Schools are, therefore, 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. 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. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

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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-** 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-** 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-** 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

**Food and other necessary goods-** 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-** police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel, 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** - 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-** staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

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Thank you to parents/carers who have now confirmed their key worker status. We will open to a small number of children from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

The government guidance says that it is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. **But 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 wider society.**

### **Learning from Home**

From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March school will be closed to the majority of children. On Friday children brought home a home learning pack, and other learning opportunities can be accessed via the school website. There is a link to year group pages from the homepage. In such unprecedented times, we appreciate that this is a challenge for all of us, but keeping children in a good routine and keeping up with learning as much as possible will be of great importance.

### **How will we communicate with children and families?**

- Email and parent mail– for general information from the head teacher and school office
- You will be able to contact class teachers about learning opportunities via email, each year group has an email which can be found on each year group's closure page.

This is an unprecedented and very worrying situation for us all but the strength of the Wallands community has been, and will I hope continue to be, a huge support.

We hope you all stay safe and well in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Collis  
Headteacher

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