

20/03/20

Dear Parents / Carers

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

As you will be aware schools have been instructed to close to most children today until further notice.

The government are asking us to continue to provide care for a **limited number of children**. This is for children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and **cannot be safely cared for at home** and children with social workers and Education, Health and Care Plans.

The government announcement asks that these key principles are followed

- **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.
- 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.
- 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.

*The full list of these categories that are critical to the Covid-19 response is available on the Department for Education Website*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?fbclid=IwAR1iwS3GuYUJA0yZ3C1Wi7-FKWHCdv89MXcXAuutGLnxdKB6ioHaCqF1nA>

We are in the process of making arrangements to enable us to support the children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday, where parents need this provision. We have now contacted parents of the children who we know are in these groups. If you feel we need to continue to provide care for your child/children on Monday and you have not been contacted by the school, then please contact us at [support@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:support@wernethprimary.org.uk) informing us of:

- Your child’s name and year group
- Your job role
- A contact phone number

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.** Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by email text, information on the school website.

Your child’s learning is of course important to us, so we will continue to help your child to learn.

We have already sent out work packs for pupils who will remain at home over the coming weeks. Pupils who continue to attend school will complete the same work as those children at home, and will not be taught by their usual classroom teacher as not all staff are able to be in school at the moment.

**Work will be set for each year group on the class pages of the school website.** Please note that this work is to cover an extended period of time away from school, should this be necessary, and the relevant pieces of work should be completed as instructed by the school, rather than parents asking their child to complete it all at once, or in a different order.

Parents who are supporting their children’s learning at home can contact their child’s class teacher by emailing them for help or guidance, using the appropriate email address from the list below. Please use these email addresses to send questions, pictures of work and to enable your children to keep in touch with their teachers.

[nurseryclass@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:nurseryclass@wernethprimary.org.uk) [rec@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:rec@wernethprimary.org.uk) [y1@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:y1@wernethprimary.org.uk),  
[y2@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:y2@wernethprimary.org.uk) [y3@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:y3@wernethprimary.org.uk) [y4@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:y4@wernethprimary.org.uk)  
[y5@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:y5@wernethprimary.org.uk) [y6@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:y6@wernethprimary.org.uk)

The website front page will continue to be our main form of communication so please check this site each day. [www.wernethprimary.org.uk](http://www.wernethprimary.org.uk)

If your child usually receives free school meals, we will provide an update on arrangements in the very near future via our website (and we will text when this information is available). We expect to be able to provide a ‘grab bag’ containing a packed lunch-style meal from Monday onwards, for all children eligible for free school meals and any attending school because of the ‘key worker’ arrangements.

If you need to get in touch to share any concerns, please don’t hesitate to do so via [support@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:support@wernethprimary.org.uk)

Remember: If you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) and please continue to follow the national guidance from Public Health England in order to stay safe and healthy. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for all your support and patience throughout this challenging time. It has been wonderful to see the pupils, parents and staff remaining positive and supporting one another throughout the uncertainty.

We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it’s far from ideal, but we will keep you as updated as much as we possibly can and ensure that we remain in contact with you all through the school website, emails, texts, and phone calls home where needed as the situation develops.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Simon Whittaker**  
**Acting Principal**  
**Werneth Primary School**