

Park Spring Primary COVID 19 update Friday 20 March 2020

Good morning families

Late yesterday, the Government updated guidance for schools, here is our response

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

That is why the Government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household 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.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- 2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker (see link below for definition), then educational provision will be available for them.**
- 3. 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.**
- 4. 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.**

At this moment, to support the continued running of the country Park Spring will be remain open for children of critical workers and also children deemed to be vulnerable where **alternative provision is not possible**.

Many parents working in the critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home, and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Every interaction carries risk. The more children at school the more staff will be required and therefore more people will be at risk (your child, our staff) **hence, we reiterate, where possible children should remain at home.**

School Provision

We will be providing childcare not normal education. Whilst the day will be safe and structured, your child WILL NOT BE DISADVANTAGED by not attending these sessions.

For those children that are invited to attend school next week provision will be organised in a very similar way to a normal school day. Teachers will lead sessions, children will be expected to wear school uniform and the school timings, including wrap around care, will be exactly the same as on a normal school day.

School meals will be provided for all children that access FSM or that pay for them. Please be aware that these will not be a hot meal but 'grab bags' with a choice of cheese or tuna sandwiches.

Attendance will follow the same procedures as normal and if your child is expected to be in school it is your responsibility to tell us if that is not the case. We will still carry out our daily phone calls if your child is invited but does not attend.

Behaviour policies and normal school rules will apply to all children and families.

Learning at home

These are not normal times and events are unprecedented, however it is important that your child's education is continued in some form. For this reason we are distributing learning packs that will support your child's learning over the next two weeks. After the Easter holiday, if this situation continues, you will receive further regular learning packs via **the school website** and guidance on how to support your child whilst at home.

In summary

If your work is **critical** to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors and you **cannot keep your child safe at home** then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

Please only arrange to send your child in if it is **absolutely necessary** for you to do so as we are operating on significantly reduced staffing. Please contact the school office to register a place. You will be informed by the end of the day whether your child has been offered a place.

National guidance is updated frequently and these are our plans as of today. Our actions are based on the best of intentions and we are sorry for any inconvenience caused. Please be aware that as guidance changes our policy will change accordingly. Accessing the website frequently will keep you updated and reduce the work load in a very busy office.

If you wish to discuss this further please email the school office in the first instance and we will do our best to get back to you. Please do not send your child if you have not received an invite from school today (Friday).

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>