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20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

### **SCHOOL CLOSURE FROM FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

We have been instructed to close the school to almost all children after today until further notice.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of **key workers** and **children with certain needs**.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

The Government has provided the following guidance today:

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

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 with an EHCP, is vulnerable and is working with social care agencies or has a parent who is a key worker, 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 and 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.

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## **KEY WORKERS**

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 arm's 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.

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## 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.

If workers think they fall within the key worker categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

## **Guidance for parents taking up the offer of places:**

- We are happy for the children to come in their own clothes, rather than uniform, but ask that these are fresh on (i.e. not worn previously)
- We recommend children change clothes and put them straight in the washing machine once returning home from school to minimise and control the spread of the infection
- Up-to-date contact details for family members and emergency contact details must be available within school should your child become poorly or exhibit symptoms of contracting coronavirus
- We must register your child in and out of the premises by somebody who either has parental responsibility or has been nominated by yourselves
- If you, or any member of your household, becomes unwell with coronavirus symptoms, you must immediately contact school and arrange for collection of your child
- Please stick to the rules of social distancing for your child when they are not in school to minimise the risk from spread of infection.
- School must be informed if you no longer fall within the key worker category or you have been asked to self-isolate
- Thorough hand washing to take place at home just before leaving home
- The kitchen is now closed but, if your child is eligible for free school meals (not including Universal free school meals for EYFS and Years 1 and 2), then a hot lunch will be provided. Choice will be limited. If your child is not eligible for free school meals, please send a packed lunch for them.
- Children to be dropped off at 8:50 and picked up at 3:15
- The school will be providing child care and will not be expected to follow the full national curriculum but we will support your child accessing the remote learning activities

Please note that we will be running on reduced staff numbers in school on a rota system so your child's usual class teacher and teaching assistant will not be in school every day. However, we will ensure that we have appropriate cover for the number of children in school on any given day, as well as a First Aider on the

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premises. If we are unable to provide appropriate cover due to staff absence, we will advise accordingly via the website and Class Dojo.

### **Free school meals**

If your child usually receives free school meals, we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a voucher scheme that the government has just announced.

### **Learning from home**

I'd like to thank our incredible staff team for their amazing support of school under these unprecedented circumstances and their complete dedication to the children's education and wellbeing. They have worked above and beyond to keep classroom learning running as usual and also set up remote learning ready for next week.

You will find the learning activities set for your child in the **School Closure tab** which will go live on the **school website** from **Monday morning**.

Teachers will be available on Class Dojo during normal working hours from Monday to answer any queries you or your child may have about the activities. Please be patient if you do not get an immediate response – your child's teacher may be answering other questions or on a rota day in school supporting vulnerable children and children of key workers. If your child wishes to show their home learning to their teacher, please take a photograph of this and attach it to their own portfolio on Class Dojo. Do not send it in a message as it may be accidentally missed amongst other messages.

If you do not currently have Class Dojo, contact school urgently so that we can set this up with you.

If at any point you lose internet access for a day or more, please contact us so we can provide a printed pack of the home learning activities.

Be assured that we will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by text, Class Dojo and via the school website. In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming you back into our Burtonwood CP School community and hope to hear about all the creative ways your children are having fun at home.

Stay safe, and take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Kindest regards to you all,

Heather Muttock  
Head Teacher

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