



Grove Vale Primary School

Head Teacher - Mrs A J Connop

Deputy Head Teacher - Mrs M Bunch

Assistant Head - Mrs S Pickett

Business Manager - Mr D Thorpe

School Web Address: www.grovevaleprimary.co.uk

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

As you know **we have been instructed to close the school to children after this Friday until further notice.**

Schools have been asked by the government to try, **where possible**, to open the school to certain key groups, schools had guidance at midnight last night.

We are very aware that we still need to follow the Government and Scientific guidance of limiting the number of people we bring together so that we support the delay in the spread of the virus effectively. We also face the challenge of doing this with our own limited resources and reduced staffing.

At this stage, if you consider yourself to be a Key Worker and are asking for your children to be considered to be cared for in school, you will need to complete and return the '**Key Worker Request Form**' (attached). This will help us to ascertain who is in most need for this service and then be in a position to confirm who we can provide care to. You will receive an email confirmation if your child can be **cared** for at school, we endeavour to do this and notify people whose requests we can accommodate by Monday. We will not be providing educational opportunities; we are committed to providing **care only**. Children who both parents are key workers will be prioritised.

We ask that this request form be completed and returned to school reception or via email as soon as possible and **no later than 12 noon** so that we can formally review the requests, prioritise them and make arrangements in the limited time we have left. Please note we will be contacting employers to check that the request is legitimate and necessary and your job role is linked to the COVID-19 crisis. We will also seek clarification about the days you require care and the times that you request. **Please complete the form if care is absolutely necessary, please DO NOT consider this as free childcare.** Unfortunately, we have had some phonecalls stating this as an option to our disappointment. It should also be noted that Government have placed a requirement on key worker parents to obtain confirmation from their employer that, based on business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Grove Vale Primary School, Monksfield Avenue, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 6AL - Telephone 0121 357 4319



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As I am sure you can imagine I also need to take the needs and health of the staff, their children and their families into consideration and what this allows us to practically do as a school as our own capacity is compromised. **Government guidance is clear that if children can be cared for at home then necessary arrangements should be made to limit social interactions. If we care for children who could be cared for elsewhere then we are ignoring government guidance which could hinder the strategies laid out to limit the spread of the virus.**

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 so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by communication on Parent pay and the School Website.

As the days pass, our capacity to provide care will more than likely decrease as staffing capacity will no doubt decrease over time. We are not in a position at the moment to give any guidance about whether we will have the staff to be able to open over the Easter holiday and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Connop
Headteacher

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