



20th March 2020

Forton Primary School
School Lane
Forton
Preston
PR3 0AS
01524 791188

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update

The latest Government advice is as follows:

*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.***

We now have a definitive list to explain who qualifies as a key worker:

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 arms 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



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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.

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 critical 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.

I must express, however, that the government advice is that **'If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.'**

With this in mind, I implore you to think very carefully about whether you can keep your child safe at home. School is operating on a limited number of staff due to illness and self-isolation and there is a possibility of closure if the numbers of children coming into school are not kept at a minimum.

We have also had a full definition of what the government are classing as 'vulnerable children'. This encompasses children who are currently under a child protection plan or who have an educational health care plan.

All children who fall under either category will be allowed to attend school on Monday. It is, however, a parental decision to send your child to school. If you do not want to send your child to school, the government has confirmed that this is entirely your choice and you may keep them **safe at home**.

As school will be closed from Monday, Breakfast and After School provision will be on a needs only basis. School will be open from 8:45am to 3:15pm.

In order to make staffing decisions for Monday, we will be phoning you to ask you about your needs today. If you are unable to answer our call please phone us back as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lorna Boase