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Friday, 20th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

At midnight, the government provided some clarity around the critical worker list producing the [Government's official guidance](#) as well as the [Government's official list of critical workers](#). The Government's definition of a 'critical worker' and a 'vulnerable child' is extensive and, unless we prioritise, we may not be able to support the families and workers that require this help the most. Decisions regarding us remaining open will change on a daily basis according to our staffing capacity.

Current government guidance regarding eligibility for the school care as of Monday 23rd, March 2020 is that **parents should keep their children at home, wherever possible, and schools are to remain open ONLY for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

Children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as 'critical workers' by the government can **potentially** send their children to school, if required. **However, we must emphasise that the government guidance also states that, 'many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be'.**

Therefore, parents / carers must adhere to the following Government 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, 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.



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Please also note, the current guidance around self-isolation regarding symptoms of coronavirus including a temperature of over 37.8°C and/or a persistent cough are still in force. It is vital to ensure that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. Clearly, the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings will **lower the risk that the virus can spread** and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

By return of email before 3.05pm today (Friday, 20th March), please complete the attached form to enable me to finalise our contingency / operational plans.

As you can imagine, we are having to make very difficult decisions and hold some incredibly challenging conversations within the Walford family. Please be assured that we continue to do our very best to protect you and your children and, as always, we appreciate your continued understanding and support.

Yours sincerely



Ms L. George
Headteacher



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