

20th March 2020

Dear Families

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE - SCHOOL CLOSURE

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.

School will close today for the majority of pupils.

Our school will continue to provide care for a limited number of children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID 19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. School hours will be 9:00am – 3:20pm as usual.

- Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education health care plans (EHC)
- Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors.

If you are a critical worker and have not yet informed us that your child will need care please do so as a matter of urgency.

Any children who are attending school must bring a packed lunch unless they are eligible for Free School Meals. Unfortunately this does not include free infant meals.

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- 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.
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents (over 70), friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- 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.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child receives free school meals we will be able to provide them with a packed lunch each day until vouchers become available. You can collect a packed lunch from school at 12:30pm each day. This will stop in the coming weeks when the government launch their free school meal supermarket voucher scheme. **Please contact the school office to confirm your requirements as soon as possible.**

Home learning packs have been sent out or are ready for collection/delivery. All home learning resources and activities are on the school website.

Please understand that this is a national closure so while it is an incredibly challenging situation, we are not alone. We will keep you informed of any further developments via text and the school website, but for now stay safe and look out for each other.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lisa and the whole school team at Luddenden CE School