



Nacton Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing once again with my regular update about Covid-19. As you know, **school will be closed for the majority of pupils from the end of today**. However, schools have been asked to **remain open for the most 'vulnerable' pupils and the children of 'key workers'**. **This provision is like an EMERGENCY SERVICE**. We have spent a great deal of time attempting to plan provision for:

- The children who will be at home;
- The children likely to be in school;
- Children eligible for Free School Meals (please note that this is for families who receive certain benefits, **not** 'universal free school meals' for Reception, Year and Year 2).

We are trying our best to keep you as informed as possible in what can only be described as challenging situation. Unfortunately, the government did not publish further guidance about the new expectations placed on schools until very late last night. We are going to react as quickly as we can but the plans and staffing rotas created yesterday. We really appreciate how quickly you have let us know if your child needs to still attend school. We will be open to these pupils until 2nd April 2020. We will then re-open again on 20th April 2020 at present we are expecting that this will be just for 'vulnerable' and 'key worker' pupils.

Please note the following government guidance about KEY WORKERS:

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.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

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.

We can reasonably take this to mean that children eligible for this extra provision are:

- Those with a single parent who is a key worker;
- Those with two parents who are both key workers;
- Service pupils where no other parent or care is available.

Where there is a parent who is not a key worker, they should reasonably be expected to care for the children at home in order to reduce the need for school provision, though we understand if this is not practical or possible. We trust parents to make reasonable and sensible decisions about their level of need. The link to the list of eligible occupations for key workers is available on our website. We shall try today, once again, to establish which families will need the school on this basis. **It is essential that eligible parents declare themselves as soon as possible.**

Please note that provision for the children of 'key workers' is an option to allow people in some roles to keep working but this is not a requirement for you. With advice to limit social contact, you may choose to care for your children in different ways.

Please note the following government guidance for VULNERABLE PUPILS:

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 and care (EHC) plans.

We shall identify these pupils and make personal contact with parents / carers. In most relevant cases, this has already happened. Again, this is an option and not a requirement. Many parents of these children may not want to send their children into school. Where this is the case, we shall make regular contact with parents / carers by phone.

For many pupils, today will be their last day at school for some time. We have been busy creating learning opportunities for the children to do at home, with a large number taking home packs. We will also be updating you regularly through Class Dojo, Tapestry (reception children only) and the website.

Key Information for children who will be attending school

Although the school environment will be very different and we won't be following our usual lessons the staff have been busy organising a range of activities for the pupils.

We have some key information that you need to be aware of:

- Children are still to come to school in their uniform, it is advised that their uniform is washed at the end of each day.
- There will be no breakfast or after school clubs.
- Please bring your child to the front office for 8.55am
- Please make sure that they bring their PE bags into school
- We are still able to provide school dinners. Please be aware that initially the menu will change frequently, depending on what is 'in stock' and then the Family Favourites menu will start. Children are also able to bring in a packed lunch if they prefer.
- We will be operating a 'skeleton staff' this means that not all staff will be in school at the same time. We will ensure that we have adequate ratios for the number of children we have in school. Please let us know as soon as possible if there is a change in your child's attendance.

This is a very challenging time for children, parents and all members of society who are being asked to make sacrifices. Our thoughts and prayers are with all members of our school community. Stay safe! Stay Healthy! Stay united and strong – support one another!

Yours sincerely

Mrs G.Ryan
Headteacher