

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are now aware, **school will close after today** until further notice. As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).

And 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**. 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.

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.

Full, updated guidance from the government can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Please, therefore, follow these 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.

As directed by the letter I sent yesterday, **if you require your child to attend school**, please could you contact us via info@pleckgate.com with your child's name, tutor group, days required and reason for attendance by **11am today**.

I would like to once again wish you and your family all the best in the coming weeks.

Best wishes



Mr M Cocker
Headteacher



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