



20 March 2020

To All Parents/Carers

Dear Parents

As you know the government has ordered all schools to close today, Friday 20th March. This is part of the strategy of social distancing which is essential in combating COVID-19 and whilst we are told the virus is far less of a danger to children, they can still carry it and spread it to those more vulnerable. Schools are, 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. If you follow the link below it will show you that key principle 5 says:

Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible. The key phrase is 'wherever possible'.

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

As Headteacher, I am totally committed to providing this provision if I have staff available to do it safely. As you will be aware, I have tried to stay open all week during massive staff shortages due to self-isolation.

I do have a small number of staff, SLT and first aiders available to run a very small provision.

We are aiming to open and offer provision to the most vulnerable groups this includes 3 categories:

1. Looked After Children
2. Keyworkers in NHS/Emergency Services
3. Pupils with Child Protection Plans

Any pupils who are epileptic, diabetic or have Care Plans will not be able to attend this provision as we would not be able to access ambulances quickly enough in this current national crisis.

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It is urgent that we now find out who needs us so we can plan for next Monday and onward. Before you alert us that you need your child to remain in school, please read the following guidance:

- If one parent is a key worker **the other parent now must work from home or come out of work to look after their child(ren)**
- If there are older siblings at home who are of an age to supervise (18+) living at home, they too must support with childcare – social distancing is the absolute priority in combating COVID-19
- Therefore, **if both parents are key workers or if you are a single parent AND your child is unable to remain home alone during the day while you are at work.**

Please inform us if you are a Key Worker by either completing this online form https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=j6S-Sif9NESuv2w09Q9gW-vHmXvxTTJDjxn-mo6_GEIUNkREQ0dGREkzS1pWOTRLSUZYmkZJU05NQy4u

Or email us at: keyworkers@marjorykinnon.hounslow.sch.uk

Please note that you will have to bring your child in yourself as there will be no transport available.

We need to know which days you will need your child in school, how they will get to school in the absence of buses and who to contact if they develop symptoms and need to go into self-isolation. We are standing ready to support our colleagues in the front line, however we are obliged to ensure social distancing as our first priority, so we must get only the right children into this service.

If you require this service, please contact us immediately with:

- Your child's name and year group
- Which key service you work in and the reasons you need your child to remain in school (see above)
- Which days you need your child to be in school

If you request a place, please do not be offended if we ask for proof of your circumstances.

The current situation is subject to change and we will keep parents updated. We appreciate the importance of the job our key workers are doing at this difficult time and, as key workers ourselves, are keen to do our bit.

Please can you inform us asap and not later than 12am today, to enable us to have staffing in place for Monday morning.

The school will endeavour to provide the children with hot dinners.

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More information will follow next week on an emergency helpline that we are setting up during the crisis to support our families who have any critical needs during this time.

Please continue to check our website www.marjorykinnonschool.co.uk for work and ideas to do with your children during this time.

This is a very frightening and worrying time and we wish to provide as much support as we possibly can to our families and local community.

Please take care of yourselves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Meredith', written in a cursive style.

Tracy Meredith
Headteacher