

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have now received official Government guidance around how the school will open to the children classed as vulnerable and to those where a parent is officially classified a key worker under the governments definition (see below), for all other students the school remains closed for the foreseeable future and these students are to remain at home completing the work provided by their teachers.

### **Is my child included in the vulnerable category?**

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and/or those with education, health and care (EHC) plans. The inclusion team have already contacted these students and you will have already decided whether to send your child into school or not.

### **Am I classified as a key worker?**

The following employment categories are included in government's official key worker list:

- **Health and Social care** - This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers
- **Education and childcare** - This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and other specialist education professionals
- **Key public services** - This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.
- **Local and national government** - This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits
- **Food and other necessary goods** - This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).
- **Public safety and national security** - This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.
- **Transport** - This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.
- **Utilities, communication and financial services** - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

### **I meet the above criteria; do I have to send my child into school?**

Even if you meet one of the above criteria, the government are clear in their message '***If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be***' and '***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.***' This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so and would prefer their children to socially distance themselves at home away from larger groups of people.

**I meet the above criteria and need to send my child to school, when is the school open?**

TCOLC will be open Monday – Friday (9.00am – 3.00pm)

**Does my child need to wear their school uniform?**

No, but they MUST bring and wear their lanyard at ALL times.

**What will my child study?**

Your child will continue to complete the work set by their teachers and staff dependent we will hopefully be able to offer some enrichment activities such as PE and drama.

**Will food be available?**

Hot food will be available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the usual cost, please bring your lanyard or cash with you. We ask that on Tuesday and Thursdays parents/carers send their child in with a packed lunch. We will of course review this once we have a clearer idea around numbers.

For free school meals, hot food will be provided on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays and a packed lunch will be given to the child for Tuesday and Thursday.

**Is transport available?**

There are no school buses running during this time. You will need to refer to local bus timetables for further scheduling information.

**What measures are in place to keep my children safe and avoid the spreading of covid-19?**

We have a team of dedicated cleaners who are on site every day cleaning our building. We have plentiful hand washing facilities and will be encouraging students to use these at regular intervals. Dependent on the numbers of students we have, we will do our best to limit the gathering of large groups, but this may prove difficult, especially at break and lunch times; however, we will be encouraging students to go outside, rather than gather in smaller inside spaces.

**What should I do now?**

You should read the government guidance, 'Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers' using the following weblink in order to make an informed decision:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

We are asking all parents who decide to send their child into school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 to contact myself at [jwalton@cityleicester.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:jwalton@cityleicester.leicester.sch.uk) by 2pm today to state their intention to send their child to school, this way we can ensure there is adequate provision in place.

I thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times.

Best wishes



Jill Walton  
**Co-Head Teacher**