



Brighstone C.E Aided Primary School

Head Teacher – Mrs. T. Fox

New Road – Brighstone – Isle of Wight – PO30 4BB – Telephone (01983) 740285

www.brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Charity Number: 307389

E-mail: office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

I am sure that you will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement on Wednesday 18th March about general school closures but continuing provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children. I am writing to give you an update on our plans for this, following advice from the Government today.

Emergency provision:

The Government has decided to close schools and only make them available for children of key workers in essential services so that they can continue to work (listed below) and those considered vulnerable.

There is no expectation that children of these key workers have to attend school. If you fall into this group and wish to make other arrangements, then you are welcome to do so.

Government Guidelines:

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.

Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. There is no requirement for children to come to school until further notice.

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.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

Key Workers:

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; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

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, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

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 (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), 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.

What to do next:

Having read through the key principles and the key worker lists, if you think you fall within the critical categories and it is essential for your children to come to school please call Melissa on 740285 or email m.jones@brighstoneprimary.org.uk for further information as soon as possible. If we have not heard from you by 1pm today we will assume that you are following government advice and keeping your children safe at home.

For your reference, if one parent is a key worker, the government will expect the other parent to have their children at home. Single parents who are key workers will be entitled to a school place during this period.

Home to School Transport:

It is expected that local authority transport will still be provided for those that need it. We are waiting for further information on this.

Free School Meals:

If your child is eligible and currently receives free school meals, there will be a provision put in place for those who still require this. More information will follow about this once we have clarification. Meals will be provided as usual for those children in school.

Online materials and learning:

For those children who will be at home from Monday morning, there will be online resources and home learning packs available to support children to continue to learn. A separate letter/email will be sent home in due course. In addition, the BBC has said that it will be increasing its range of resources to support children's education.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support through these unprecedented times. Please be assured that we will continue to update you as the situation changes and that we will continue to work for the best interests of the children at our school whilst following government guidelines.

Please ensure the office has your up to date email address and telephone numbers as these will be our main forms of communication.

With best wishes,
Mrs Lennon

