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Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to write to you as soon as it was possible to share the information provided by the government on who it deems to be key-workers. This will enable you to notify us if you would like our support in looking after your child while you carry out your job role during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In taking the decision to close schools to the majority of students, until further notice, it is prudent for me to share the key principles the government would like you to adhere to, following their decision, applicable to our setting:

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.

I have attached a detailed list of the roles the government considers to be key-workers at this time. For quick reference, please look at the list I have summarised below:

- **Health and social care workers** (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 workers**
- **Key public service workers**
- **Local and national government** (essential administrative occupations)
- **Employment directly related to food and other necessary goods** (workers involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery)
- **Public safety and national security workers**
- **Transport workers**
- **Utilities, communication and financial services workers**

If, after looking at the detailed version of the list above, you are unsure as to whether your job role is considered to be in one of the critical categories, the government advice is to contact your employer.

The source of the information above 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>

The government have not stated it is compulsory to send your child to school, during this time. Therefore, if you would prefer your child to stay at home, whilst you work, this is a choice you can make. For example, you may wish for your child to help with the care of a younger sibling. In order for

us to best support key-workers and their families, it would help for you to notify us if you fall in to this category, in the event you need our support.

To inform us of your status as a key-worker, please email the following address:

keyworkers@marywebbschool.com

We will reply to your email with a short set of questions which will enable us to provide the care for your child you would expect from us. **If you need us to look after your child on Monday 23rd March, it is imperative we know as soon as possible.**

I will be issuing further information and guidance today, in relation to the provision of free school meals and clarification on the GCSE exam situation. Please monitor your emails and the 'Latest News' tab on our school website to access this information as soon as possible.

The government have also produced a webpage aimed directly at parents. I have enclosed a copy of the contents of this page, but should you wish to view it online, follow the link below:

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

Please ensure you keep in touch with us, should you have further queries about our role in this situation or in relation to the work your child is doing at home. If there is any impediment to your child accessing the work set for them by their class teachers, we will do our best to help resolve the issue.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P J Lowe-Werrell
Headteacher

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Key worker/critical role list

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

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.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above **they should confirm with their employer** that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.