

Dear Parent / Guardian

We have now received official guidance from the Department of Education regarding school closures. Following the guidance, our school will remain open for **children of critical workers** and **vulnerable children only** from 8.50am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. Breakfast club will continue to open at 8am each morning but a £2 charge will still be in force.

**There is an official guide for parents on this link**

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

Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

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.

For **vulnerable children**, your child's social worker will work with you to assess the best option for your child.

**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.

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.

Children with **at least one parent or carer** who are identified as **critical workers** by the government (see list below) can therefore send their children to school if required.

**Forward as One Church of England  
Multi Academy Trust**

**A:** Newnham Street, Astley Bridge,  
Bolton, BL1 8QA

**T:** 01204 333 741 **E:** [enquiries@forwardasone.org](mailto:enquiries@forwardasone.org)

**[www.forwardasone.org](http://www.forwardasone.org)**

If you wish to send your child or children to school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 please complete the online survey monkey questionnaire on the school website and email the school at [admin@canonjohnson.co.uk](mailto:admin@canonjohnson.co.uk) and label the email 'Will be attending school' with your name and address.

## **Vulnerable children**

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Children who have a social worker include children in need, children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. We will work with schools, early years, FE providers and local authorities to help identify the children who most need support at this time

## **Critical 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**

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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.***

## **Free School Meals**

We know that free school meals are important for many families. To make sure eligible children can continue to be supported, we will continue to provide a free school meal in the form of a **Grab and go bag** to those families who are eligible for Free School Meals and are not attending school. For all eligible pupils we will be placing the meals at the kitchen door by the school car park entrance. We would ask that all parents collecting meals between 12-1pm come through the double car park gates, collect the meal and then leave using the pedestrian gate to limit the contact with other people who may be picking up meals at school.

These are difficult times for all of us, however we will pull through by working together and communicating regularly.

Our staff have been working at double speed to produce home learning packs and arrange for resources and, I am very proud to say, they are all determined that they play their vital part in keeping our schools open whilst supporting the learning and well-being of those children remaining at home by keeping in contact with children and families.

Your child's school will send out a separate communication which will tell you:

- How to access home learning
- How and when they will keep you informed
- How you can contact school if you need help or support

We hope that this will not be the last day in school for our Year 6 children and that at the very least, we can arrange some sort of end of year celebration for them at some point in the future once this national emergency is over.

On behalf of our hard working and dedicated staff, I wish you all good health and happiness over the coming weeks and look forward to welcoming everyone back in school, safe and well when this is all over.

Look after yourselves and each other and keep safe.  
Our prayers are with you all

Karen Bramwell  
Chief Executive Officer

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