



Elm Tree Community Primary School
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Coronavirus Update (COVID-19)

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to thank all of you for your continued support during these ever-changing and uncertain times. Please be reassured that school staff are doing everything we can to keep parents and carers as up to date as possible by following all government led advice.

As I am sure you will be aware, it was announced on Wednesday evening that schools in the UK will be closed from Friday until further notice. It is worth noting, with further clarification today from the government, that schools can remain open to provide childcare for children that fall under certain categories. These have been specified as those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

In addition to this, those children whose parents fall under the category of key workers are also entitled to remain in school. An extensive list of who qualify as being a key worker has recently been released by government and can be accessed via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We ask all parents and carers who identify as any of the key workers listed to contact school as soon as possible to make us aware of your responsibilities during this pandemic. Please note that if you have spoken to a member of the office team recently regarding this, you do not need to contact school.

We understand that this will come as a great relief for many of you. However, please be conscientious that due to the remaining rigid guidelines regarding self-isolation, over the coming weeks this may pose an issue in terms of staffing. It has been highlighted by the government and local authority that special schools should work together with parents and carers to determine which children would be safer staying at home during this time. Lancashire County Council refer to this as "Principle 1: If at all possible for your children to be at home, then they should be". By adopting this approach, we will be able to create a safe environment for those who need it most.



Lastly, we would like to thank all parents and carers for supporting school during these current circumstances. From Monday 23rd March, as outlined by the government, schools that remain open will be primarily used as another means of childcare. Although we will continue to instil as much routine and structure as possible, we ask that parents and carers are mindful that changes in daily school life will be inevitable. By working together, we are certain that these changes will be manageable but ask for you to communicate with school regarding any concerns or questions to ensure that we can run as smoothly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

D. Lamb

Mr D. Lamb

Headteacher

