

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents

We now have the update from the Government regarding how schools will work moving forwards, from Monday. There are guidelines we all need to follow:

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- **If there is no choice, we will provide support for vulnerable children (those children supported by children's services), children with an EHCP and any child who has a parent that is a critical worker (see below).**
- **Parents should not rely on childcare from members of their family with health issues and those who are elderly - apply social distancing.**
- **Children should apply the same social distancing rules as adults and not mix in a way that could spread the virus.**

The school is only open for families who are in these categories:

- **children who are supported by social services**
- **children with an EHCP**
- **a child of a parent who is a critical worker**

The government cannot list every possible critical worker and if you are unsure, please get in touch.

Critical workers fall into categories from the following sectors:

- **Health and Social Care** front line workers, including volunteers and those who are producing medical supplies and medicines. People who keep the NHS and health and social care system up and running.
- **Education and Childcare:** any nursery or school staff and those who are social workers
- **Key Public Services:** those running frontline services such as police, religious staff and journalists who provide information, there is less detail here so come and have a chat.
- **Local and national government:** only administration roles supporting the COVID-19 response government bodies who keep the services running e.g. payment of benefits.
- **Food and goods:** those who are involved in producing, selling, delivering food but also other hygiene services e.g. refuse collectors and also veterinary services.
- **Public safety and national security:** police, probation staff, border control, fire services, armed forces, national security roles and those involved in the COVID-19 response.
- **Transport:** those supporting air, road, rail and water transport systems.
- **Utilities, financial and communication services:** essential financial services e.g banks and building societies; workers from the oil, gas and electricity sector; IT and data

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infrastructure sector; those 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.

Details 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>

**If you are key worker but are able to keep your child at home with you and would not rely on the care from people in vulnerable groups then please do not send them to school.**

As many of you already realise, we are already running on a skeleton staff due to staff needing to self-isolate or being part of a vulnerable group. To ensure that we are able to maintain a provision during this unprecedented period for the children of key workers, we will be running a single provision across the Hub. This means that West Alvington will be the base for any children from Thurlestone or Charleton during this period. We will be open from 8.45 until 3.15, as per the usual West Alvington school times and a skeleton staff from all 3 schools will be on site for the children.

If during this 'closed' period you need to speak to a member of school staff, please contact West Alvington on 01548 852 002 as the other schools will be closed. This includes if your circumstances change and you need support.

During this period we will not charge parents for booked additional sessions in our Nursery. This applies to those families who are able to attend and those who cannot.

The government has asked schools to continue to provide care throughout what would have been the Easter holidays and we will do this for eligible children.

To help us plan, we need to know how many children will need to access nursery or school. Please click on the link below and fill in the form.

Some of you are currently self-isolating and may be able to attend in the future; please can you also complete the form by 6pm on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**.

[LAP South Hams Hub Childcare Provision Form](#)

Next week, there will be a hot lunch time provision and dessert on offer every day for all children who attend. Children can still bring a packed lunch if they wish. If you have received a hamper, we will still provide lunch.

The choices will be limited. The children will be asked from the selection their preference and any dietary requirements. We will review this weekly and update as we respond to the government's planned response.



During this period we are not expecting the children to wear school uniform however we ask they wear sensible comfy clothes and remember they outside for periods of the day.

These are new and strange times and we cannot believe that we will be saying goodbye to so many pupils today without knowing exactly when we will see you all again. We will take each day as it comes but we are looking at ways we can stay connected as a school family and how we can make use of the virtual world - watch this space. Where we can, we continue to be on the end of the telephone and email, even if you are unable to attend. We all just have to work a little bit differently for a little while.

Our amazing Year 6 children may not get the opportunity to come back to school. We would never let our children move on without a big farewell! Whatever happens we will ensure that our Year 6 pupils get the send-off that they deserve, we just do not know when, how or where but we will celebrate them and their journey through our school.

We will not be setting up virtual classrooms or asking for school work to be submitted, this is just not manageable for all families and is heavily reliant on internet connections and access to devices. However we will be posting lots of activities, some web-based and some not, on our websites. Home Learning packs are available to those of you who cannot access the internet.

<https://thurlestone-lap.co.uk/learning/home-learning-links-2/>

There is so much speculation on social media and in the press, please do not let this worry you, keep checking our website and emails and we will keep you informed as to what is happening with schools.

Thank you for understanding and thank you for pulling together as a community. Please do follow the government guidelines; please do consider how you will apply social distancing; please minimise mixing with others so that we can all protect the vulnerable members of our community. We are in this together and we can do this!

We will keep sending letters, messages and communication and we will continue to be a strong community, it just might look different.

Sending best wishes to you and your families.

*L. Garside*

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