



19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## **Arrangements for Children of KEY WORKERS during School Closure** **Urgent Response Required – By 2.00pm Today**

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will be aware that the Government has announced the closure of all schools in the UK from the end of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, in response to Covid-19. This means that from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March the school will be closed and children should remain at home.

Who can access child care provision offered by the school?

The Government has requested that all schools identify the child care arrangements they will be putting in place for children classed as those whose parents are Key Workers. In the early hours of Friday morning the government published on GOV.UK a definition of key workers which is summarised as the following:-

- **Health & Social Care** – Doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, other frontline health and social care staff and other staff supporting and maintaining the health and social care sector
- **Education & Childcare** – Teaching and Nursery Staff, social workers
- **Key Public Services** – Including those essential to running of the justice system, charities, management of the deceased, public service broadcasters
- **Local and National Government** – Only those occupations essential to the effective delivery of COVID-19 response
- **Food & Other Necessary Goods** – Those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery
- **Public Safety & National Security** – Including police and support staff, armed forces personnel, fire and rescue service employees
- **Transport** – Including those who will keep the air, water, road and rail transport operating
- **Utilities** – Including those working in essential utilities and financial services sector

We understand the importance of each of the professions listed and the responsibility we have for supporting these people in attending work at such unprecedented times.

The government is clear in its guidance:-

- **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading**
- **Schools are asked to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend**
- **The fewer the children in education settings the lower the risk the virus can spread**
- **Many parents working in the sectors above may be able to ensure that their child is kept at home, and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

In making plans with you, we must also acknowledge the **limited and already reduced school resources available in these difficult times** as a result of some staff needing to self-isolate as a result of: underlying health conditions; demonstrating symptoms; a family member demonstrating symptoms. We must be mindful of this as we seek to offer sustainable child care provision.

With this in mind child care provision delivered by the school is for those parents/carers who are unable to make alternative arrangements for their children to be looked after while undertaking key roles ie. where they have no other reasonable or safe options with regard child care arrangements.

Should the capacity of the school in providing child care lead us to change provision on offer we will seek to contact parents as soon as this is identified.

When will child care provision be available?

Child care arrangements will be put in place for your child **during term time school hours** to support their safe supervision during the school day: 8.50am to 3.15pm (they can arrive in school from 8.35am) from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

We are currently planning to close all provision during the scheduled Easter break – we hope that this will support us in providing a safe, sustainable and virus-free environment from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. We will maintain contact with families using the service during this period.

What arrangements will be in place?

When children arrive at school they are to come into the HUB and sit down in order for the register to be taken. We are sorry that children **can not arrive on the school site ahead of 8.35am**, the Courtyard will be closed in order to minimise gatherings and reduce the spread of COVID 19.

Before arrival and handover children will remain the responsibility of their parent, therefore usual absence processes apply: in the event your child is not attending school child care, you need to call the school office and leave a message.

The usual expectations of the school apply at all times during child care provision - this includes expectations of behaviour. Children will be expected to wear school uniform.

You will need to provide your child with a packed lunch, unless they are in receipt of free school meals, in which case meals will be provided. They will also need to bring a healthy snack for break time as these will not currently be available for sale on the school site as we prioritise the provision of lunches for children who qualify for free school meals.

If your child has a game or activity they wish to bring in from home they are encouraged to do so.

What next?

If you are a Key Worker in need of child care provision during the hours of 8.35am and 3.15pm while the school is in a period of enforced closure, **please can you URGENTLY share the information requested on the reply slip below, including two telephone contact numbers in case of need.**

**We would ask that anyone requesting support adheres to the Government guidance above – the guidance is clear and we would wish to avoid dialogue around personal circumstances as time and resource are short.**

This information can be shared **by returning the slip on the next page of this letter to the school office, through the School Gateway or by emailing [admin@haytorview.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@haytorview.devon.sch.uk)**. To support our planning we would be grateful if you could share this information with us **by 2.00pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**.

We will aim to confirm your child's place within the child care provision detailed above through School Gateway ahead of the weekend.

Yours sincerely

Katy Galling  
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba  
Chair of Governing Board

**REPLY SLIP – SCHOOL CLOSURE CHILD CARE REQUEST**

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_ Class(es)\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer 1

Name:

Please indicate which category of key worker applies to you:

Place of Work:

Parent/Carer 2

Name:

Please indicate which category of key worker applies to you:

Place of Work:

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Contact Number 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Contact Number 2 \_\_\_\_\_