

Coastal Learning Partnership
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Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus update: all schools closed to the majority of pupils after Friday

As the Government continues to roll out its strategy to push back the coronavirus pandemic, it has now required all schools to close after Friday, for the majority of pupils. By deciding to not close to all pupils, the Government is asking schools to remain central in its plan to manage this situation. Our schools will be rising to that challenge and are now focusing their positive energy on quickly drawing up detailed plans for that.

This means that, after Friday, it is the Government's expectation that the majority of pupils will be at home. A small number of pupils will be invited to attend school. Those pupils are either:

Those that are considered most vulnerable

Schools will decide which children they consider to be most vulnerable and this will include factors such as those with an EHCP and those with an assigned social worker.

Those who live with adults, all of whom are 'key workers'

Parents will need to tell their school urgently if they consider that all the adults at their child's home are key workers and if they wish for their child to be looked after by the school.

Accompanying this letter, there is a form which parents should use if they consider that all the adults at their child's home are key workers and if they wish for their child to be looked after by the school.

At the time of writing, the Government has not yet published a full list of 'key workers'. The form includes those categories that we are certain of but it also invites other parents to tell us if they think they may be key workers: we will cross-reference any forms that are returned with the Government's list once it is published.

Parents who meet these criteria and who wish to send their child to school from Monday to be looked after must complete the form and return as soon as possible. **Schools would like to have as many as possible returned by 3.30pm today: the absolute deadline is 8.30am Friday morning.** Schools will then contact parents as early as they possibly can on Friday to let you know whether or not your child is invited to attend school from Monday. **Please note that parents should not bring their children to school on Monday unless they have been explicitly invited to do so.**

Parents should note that this 'minimal service' provided from Monday will not really be one of education; it is to ensure that, first and foremost, those children attending are cared for and positively engaged. Whilst schools will aim to achieve some educational element, our priority will be around wellbeing.

Once again, my thanks in advance for parents' patience and understanding. This is an enormous challenge for schools in the shortest of timescales. Schools have always been especially good at making plans and solving problems: they will certainly make this work but they are dependent on a speedy and positive response from parents.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Howieson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Paul Howieson
CEO, Coastal Learning Partnership