

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As per the latest guidance from Government (20 March 2020) our school will be open next week for pupils of critical workers.

Parents whose work is **critical** to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined by the Government in this [information](#). Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

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
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible

If your work is **critical** to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision

We are very grateful to those parents who have responded to our survey of need which is enabling us to plan the right staffing levels to support the care of children next week. We asked all parents who would be deemed to be a critical worker to complete the survey by 9am on Friday 20 March.

For those children who will be attending childcare at Hemyock Primary next week we will be open from 9am – 3.20pm with wrap around care where needed 8 am – 9am and 3.20pm – 5pm.

The COVID-19 outbreak and schools acting in this way presents dynamic and ever-changing challenges. We will be working next week with the local authority and other schools to review and clarify childcare provision for the Easter holidays and beyond, this may include schools working together to provide childcare for pupils from several schools in one place. We will, of course, keep you updated at the earliest opportunity. However next week it will only be children from Hemyock Primary that will be able to attend with the exception that we will, where necessary, reserve a space for children of our school staff who are offering childcare on any given day.

In line with government principles of social distancing we respectfully request that parents do not enter the school building, we will register the children outside of the front door, by the school office.

We will be observing PHE guidance and social distancing where possible for instance:

- Regular supervised hand washing for all children, staff and visitors on entry to/exit from the building
- Regular supervised handwashing including before eating/after using the toilet
- Children and staff are being reminded not to touch their face
- Children and staff are reminded to cough/sneeze into tissue
- Not undertaking activities that would encourage over exposure to hand to hand or physical contact

We would also very much like to ask parents to keep a keen eye with regard to their children exhibiting any symptoms including regular temperature taking. If any child or member of staff does feel ill, they will be isolated with supervision and sent home immediately.

Online Learning

The majority of children will not be attending our childcare from next week and they will be expected to engage in online learning where possible. Our arrangements for online learning will be shared in a separate letter.

I am sure we all recognise and appreciate the role that our school staff are playing in addressing and meeting the challenges of this national crisis. I am sure, you as parents, will do everything that you can to support them.

Kind regards



Catherine Willcocks

HEADTEACHER