

Dear Parents,

**Partial opening for key care and vulnerable pupils**

Following information released from the Government this morning, we are busy co-ordinating an approach to partially opening our school from Monday. The Government are asking schools to keep the country running by providing care for the children of essential workers and the most vulnerable children in society.

As always, Braywood staff are more than happy to step up in this very challenging emergency situation. However, this has put staff in a difficult position. By reducing their social distancing in this way, we are asking staff to potentially compromise the health of themselves and their families. They also have their own personal circumstances with their own vulnerable members of their family. Therefore, we are asking even if you are a key worker, if you have alternative childcare, or you have another healthy member of your family e.g. if mum is a key worker but dad is not; to please choose this alternative.

**The overriding message is if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. If you are able to provide alternative care for your child, please do so.**

You may be entitled to care if you have no alternative provision for your child and you fall into one of the following categories below:

* They have an Educational, Health and Care plan and need specific care.
* They are vulnerable and could be at risk if they do not attend school some of the time e.g. they have an assigned social worker.
* They are key workers (see below)

*Health and social care*

*This includes but is not limited to frontline doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK’s health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributers of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.*

*Education and childcare*

*This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.*

*Key public services*

*This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.*

*Local and national government*

*This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including government agencies and arm’s length bodies.*

*Food and other necessary goods*

*This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).*

*Public safety and national security*

*This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.*

*Transport*

*This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.*

*Utilities, communication and financial services*

*This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as 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.*

If you think you meet these criteria and your child may need to come into school next week, please let the office know by email asap. We will be opening our school between 9am- 3pm from Monday 22nd March until Friday 3rd April. This situation will then be reviewed by the borough. Your child needs to come to school in their uniform and will be able to have a school cooked lunch or bring in their packed lunch. If you are unsure, the office is open in the morning to answer questions and to collect your homework pack if your child was not in school on Friday.

On Monday morning you will be asked to confirm your current profession and place of work and the email address of your line manager or equivalent who will be able to verify your key worker status: that, based on the business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. Some companies have been asked to provide evidence of your key worker status already.

You will also be asked which days you require support because the provision does not have to be full time.

Thank you for your understanding at this difficult time.

Susan Calvert