

23rd March 2020

RE: School Closure

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm writing to remind you that school will be closed **from Monday 23rd March until further notice.**

The government have asked us to provide, where possible, childcare for vulnerable children, children with EHCP plans and children of Key Workers. We are remaining closed initially to allow us to plan for this and to complete a thorough risk assessment to ensure the safety of children, staff, parents and visitors.

This is emergency childcare provision, and if children can be left at home safely because there is adequate care then this is what MUST happen. We are trying to reduce the spread of COVID-19, whilst at the same time support those critical workers in need.

Reminder: that if you or your child has come into contact or lives with someone who has shown symptoms, then you are not able to bring them to school, please keep them at home.

The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

This provision is only for parents who meet the criteria below AND have no other childcare provision. Nationally, the strategy is "suppression" and schools are closing for this reason i.e. we should be doing everything we can to suppress/stop the virus spreading and this applies to protecting school staff and their families. We therefore want the school to be open for the minimum number of children (in the key groups) **where there is no one else at home to look after your child and neither parent is working from home** – and therefore have the minimum number of staff working in school. This will support us in reducing the spread of the virus.

Vulnerable Children and Children with EHCP plans

The school has or will contact these families to make arrangements for provision at school from next week.

Key Workers are defined as the following;

Children with a parent or carer who is listed will be considered for a place as long as their job cannot be done from home and have no other childcare arrangements.

<p>Health and social care This includes but is not limited to 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 distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.</p>	<p>Education and childcare This includes nursery and teaching staff (any school staff), social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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 in government agencies and arm's length bodies.</p>	<p>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).</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they **should confirm with their employer** that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

We do require proof of employment, this could be a recent payslip or letter from your employer.

Using this criteria, we need parents to **confirm** if they are a Key Worker or their child is vulnerable or has an EHCP plan and they require childcare.

We are currently risk assessing the staffing situation, we have a high number of staff who are unwell, in self-isolation and in the vulnerable groups which makes opening very challenging at the moment. We aim to open on Friday 27th March if we have enough staff and then offer childcare the following week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday if we can do this safely.

Please email office@kintoreway.southwark.sch.uk

With:

- Child's name and key person
- Key Worker profession for each parent
- Which days you require childcare.

You must inform us by midday Wednesday 25th March

We have very limited staffing, so if children can stay safely at home, they must, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

If we have a shortage of staff, we will prioritise places following this criteria;

1. Children where either parent is a member of NHS frontline staff e.g. doctors and nurses
2. Children who have a social worker or are known to the school to be extremely vulnerable
3. Children where both parents are on the key worker list
4. Children where one parent is on the key worker list

Social Distancing

Talk between adults needs to be at a minimum, we recommend communication via email or phone rather than conversations

Please do not go into the classrooms when you drop your child off.

Please do not stand together in the reception area, please ensure you are 2.5 m away from each other.

Reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19

Wash your hands before leaving home

Use hand sanitiser on arrival

Cough and sneeze into a tissue and bin it or use your elbow if tissues are not available

Follow government guidelines on self-isolation

Do not come in if you or your child are unwell in any way

We highly recommend your child changes clothes as soon as they get home and have a wash including hair (it's possible the virus can remain in hair)

It is recommended that adults also change clothes and wash as soon as they arrive home (do not sit on any furniture until clothes have been changed)

Avoid going to any other public places outside of work and school

Do not have visitors, family or friends visit your home



Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, we will be sending you a letter that can be presented at Food Banks. We may also be able to provide food vouchers if required, so please do get in touch if you need assistance.

Home Learning

We have sent home learning information in previous letters. We aim to send you weekly suggested activities to do at home through parent mail.

It has been an incredibly challenging time for us all, and I thank you for your support and kind words by email or on the school gate each day. The next few weeks will be an adjustment for all of us. We are doing everything we can to support your children and families at this time and appreciate your patience and support. Please do help us by following the advice set out above.

Remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Sherwood
Executive Headteacher