



# Westerton Primary Academy

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20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The Academy is closed from 3.15p.m. today and will have to remain closed to all pupils on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We will notify you as to when we will be able to open to provide the emergency provision offer for certain pupils and can now provide guidance as to how this may be accessed.

With the latest government guidance, the Academy must now **PRIORITISE** the applications of parents who feel they have a **need** to be considered for child care.

As we negotiate the additional issues of staffing shortages, we are guided to still ensure that schools stay safe by only providing care which can maintain **healthy social distancing**. Of course, this can only happen with sufficient staff numbers. Teaching unions have stated that,

*“Taking up a place at school during this time of wider closure is the offer of last resort for the minority of key workers who have no alternative.”*

The list of key workers is extensive and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

However, we understand that many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to supervise their child at home. Government guidance states that:

*“Every child who **can** be **safely** cared for at home, **should** be.”*

In order for us to prioritise places, we need parents/carers to complete the **online survey** we are sending today via text, as soon as possible. The following criteria will have to be implemented:

1. Pupils where **either parent** is a member of the **NHS FRONTLINE** staff. E.g. doctor or nurse.
2. Pupils who have a **Social Worker** or are known to the Academy to be **extremely vulnerable** or who have a confirmed **EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan.)**
3. Pupils where **BOTH** parents have a role included on the key worker list.
4. Pupils where **ONE** parent is on the key worker list.



Visit our School Website  
[www.westerton.leeds.sch.uk](http://www.westerton.leeds.sch.uk)  
Visit the Leodis Academies Trust Website  
[www.leodisacademiestrust.com](http://www.leodisacademiestrust.com)



20<sup>th</sup> March

You will be able to access our survey via the link sent to you via ParentPay, email or text message.

This criteria will be used to make an offer to parents who feel they should have a place but please remember, there is **NO REQUIREMENT** to send your child to school if you do not need or wish to. There is no doubt that home is usually the safest place to be for children in a national emergency.

**Only families with an offer of a place/places can attend** the Academy when it re-opens. We will update you of the specific date for this.

We have had initial clarification from the government with regard to **Free School Meals** and await a **national voucher scheme**. In the meantime, parents whose children are usually in receipt of free school meals may collect a packed lunch from Westerton between 11am and 12 noon from the main hall via our main entrance. However, please do not come to school if your family is self-isolating; we will arrange for this lunch to be delivered. It would be helpful if you could contact the Academy via email to [office@westerton.org.uk](mailto:office@westerton.org.uk) to advise us of this. Likewise, we know that some families may find themselves in hardship or becoming eligible for free school meals due to changes in circumstances. Please inform us at the email above if this is the case.

Sadly, we have been informed of a **scam** where you receive a text or email requesting your bank account details if your child is entitled to free school meals whilst the school is closed. Please do not respond; the Academy will **NEVER** ask for such details.

With the possibility of spending increased amounts of time in the house, it is still important to keep fit and active – both for the body and mind. There are loads of online resources to help you keep fit and active. These will be listed on our additional letter which provides guidance for supporting your children to work at home. With children likely to be spending more time around the house over the coming weeks, some are likely to spend **more time online**. This may make them more vulnerable to online abuse and unwanted contact. Links to information and support around staying safe online can also be found on our website. **We would always recommend that phones and other devices are not in bedrooms overnight**. It is best to have agreed times for using devices as well as time limits. If any issues arise, apps will have reporting mechanisms built in. There is also the option of reporting directly to **CEOP**. The Academy will still remain a point of contact for support should you require it.

Finally, I would like to commend our children, parents and all colleagues for the inspiring and supportive ways in which they have accepted this news and to wish our whole community the very best as we face what will be a very difficult few weeks ahead. Please do stay safe as best you can.

Yours faithfully



Stephanie Makin  
Principal