



Coronavirus: required closure – letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from government announcements, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children, until further notice. Within this letter I have also provided the government's response for Parents and Carers.**

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

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 below. 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 below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

A full list of critical workers and further information is available.

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

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by jotter, email or our school websites

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

If you believe you are a key worker and you feel your child needs a place at the school, please could you complete our school key worker survey today to support our organisation with this matter. This can be found by clicking on the link below and answering our short survey. Thank you for your support with this matter.

<https://forms.gle/AUJd1ctcPxmCgQrw7>

School will be open to key worker and vulnerable children from 8:30AM-3PM. A lunch will be provided for these pupils.

4.2 If only one parent or carer is a critical worker, can I send my children in to school?

Children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can send their children to school if required. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child **safe at home** then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Online learning will commence on the 6th January. Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn. This will be done via our School website, using purple mash (See link below). Please use the links for additional work to support your child:

<https://www.newlubbesthorpe.leics.sch.uk/pupil-zone>

<https://www.newlubbesthorpe.leics.sch.uk/pupil-zone/purple-mash-online-platform>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/home>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/search?term=closure+packs>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year>

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has initiated.

What we won't be able to go ahead with

- School trips
- Breakfast or after-school clubs
- Events
- Internal exams or tests

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via office@newlubbesthorpe.leics.sch.uk.

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

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Take care and please look after each other.

Yours sincerely

Peter Merry

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "P. Merry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Head Teacher

CEO OWLS Trust.