



Barby CE Primary School
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Dear Parents / Carers,

I'm sure you will be aware through the media that there has been a lot of uncertainty regarding the provision of on-site education in primary, secondary and special schools nationally due to the increased transmissibility of the new strain of Covid-19.

This evening, the government has stated that it is their expectation that the country enters a new period of national lockdown, which will include the closure of schools for a second time. All learning will move online except for children of key workers and vulnerable children.

Due to the late hour of informing schools and the public, the **school will be closed tomorrow** to all pupils **except for those children of critical workers who cannot provide childcare at home and invited vulnerable children**. Every child who can stay at home should stay at home - we have a responsibility to protect our staff and school community and so will ask for our parents' support in this matter.

For tomorrow, school will only be open for those children of critical workers whose parents need to attend work and have no alternative childcare. For these children school will be open from 8.45am to 3pm. Please keep your child at home tomorrow if you possibly can.

If you absolutely need to send your child into school tomorrow because you are a critical worker and have no alternative childcare, please contact the School Office by email (bursar@barby-ce.northants-ecl.gov.uk) by 8am.

Tomorrow's places will only be allocated to children who cannot be cared for at home.

We ask for your support with this to allow us to make the necessary and appropriate arrangements to move to remote and live learning, collect our requirements for Key Worker places and organise our staffing accordingly. You will appreciate that being told that schools must close with such limited notice allows us very little time to prepare. We therefore ask you to allow us time tomorrow to put everything fully in place to meet all of our community's needs.

From Wednesday, full provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children will recommence (please see below). The school will be contacting parents tomorrow to make enquiries about key worker provision in the same way as the previous lockdown for all pupils. As you will appreciate, the organisation of this provision will take some time, details of arrangements will be issued tomorrow.



In light of the above, remote learning will take place with immediate effect for children affected by this closure. Teachers will upload learning resources via Class Dojo. Due to the late hour of the announcement, tomorrow may have limited resources but full online learning will commence on Wednesday.

We will staff appropriately the provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. This is clearly not designed to be a general childcare service but aimed specifically for children of critical workers who do not have an adult who lives with them who can care for them during school hours. Parents classed as critical workers are those whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and includes those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors including:

- Education and childcare settings
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Processing, distribution and sales of food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Utilities, communication and financial services
- EU transition response

Further information about critical worker and vulnerable children can be found here:

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

This provision must only be used when absolutely necessary. Provision will be limited to the times when critical workers are at work and so we will be requesting that you provide us with details of your employment and work hours.

We will need to continue mitigating measures during this provision.

Please be assured that the safety of the whole school community is paramount.

Thank you for your continued patience and support during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Beaton

Headteacher

