



Bransgore Church of England Primary School

Ringwood Road, Bransgore, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 8JH
T: 01425 672272 Fax: 01425 674554 www.bransgoreprimaryschool.co.uk
Head Teacher: Mr. Paul Brown



Dear Parents and Carers,

4th January 2021

I am writing to update you on plans for school following the Prime Minister's statement at 8pm this evening. Since school finished on 18th December, a great deal has changed given the rising incidence of Covid-19 rates and the new strain of the virus.

We are now in a second full UK lockdown situation but our school will be open as childcare provision for the children of key workers and our most vulnerable children.

To allow us to plan properly for this and to ensure we keep everyone safe I am afraid that we must remain closed tomorrow 5th January. This is to enable us to decide who qualifies as key workers or vulnerable pupils. I am sorry that this information has come to you so late and will cause many of you some level of stress but I am afraid there is no alternative.

This letter is accompanied by a questionnaire which I would ask you to complete as a matter of urgency if you feel you will require key worker childcare at school or if you feel your child falls into the vulnerable category as described below.

Please use the remainder of this letter (which sets out the government criteria) to decide whether you qualify or whether you need to send your child into school. If you feel you qualify as a key worker and you have no alternative childcare for your child then please complete the form and return it to school via e-mail as soon as possible and **no later than 10am on Tuesday 5th January.**

As school will be closed tomorrow and we are aware that you will be very stretched for childcare and trying to make alternative arrangements, remote learning will not start until Wednesday 6th January. I hope that this will give you some much needed breathing space.

Children of critical workers

The government has updated its guidance about which groups of people who are considered to be critical workers as follows:

Health & Social care workers – doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, other frontline health and social care staff, supply chain staff, producers and distributor of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare - teachers/school support staff and childcare staff, specialist educational professionals, social workers.

Key public services – justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, journalists and broadcasters.

Local and national government – administration involved in the COVID-19 response or those delivering essential public services.





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Food and other necessary goods – food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery and other key goods, for example hygienic and veterinary medicines.

Public safety and national security – police and support staff, MoD civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel critical to the COVID-19 pandemic, fire and rescue staff, National Crime Agency staff, border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles.

Transport – people keeping air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport operating, including supply chains.

Utilities, communication and financial services – banks, building societies, financial market infrastructure, oil, gas, electricity and water/sewerage, information technology and data, nuclear, chemical, telecommunications, postal service, payment providers and waste disposal sectors.

If you believe that at least one parent within your family falls within these definitions and you would be unable to fulfil your role as a key worker if your child did not remain in school during the lock down then you can request a childcare place at school. We will consider your application and categorise applications beginning with those in most need of support to carry out their role as a key worker.

Evidence of your role, days worked, where you work and possibly confirmation from your employer may be required before we are able to offer a place.

Please note: If you are a key worker but you are able to carry out your role effectively from home, then you **must** keep your children at home with you. School childcare during a lock down situation is a provision of last resort and we must keep as many people at home and isolated as possible to protect the community and the NHS. We understand that trying to work from home with children can be stressful and inconvenient but this is not enough reason to request a place as a key worker. If you are at home, your children should be too.

Our school will also remain open to pupils defined as “vulnerable”

The government definitions for children in this category are those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services or in the process of being referred to children’s services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those living in temporary accommodation





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- those who are young carers
- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)

If you believe your child falls into one of these categories, and you would like your child to attend school during the lockdown then please apply as requested using the questionnaire. We shall then consider your request and communicate our decision and arrangements to you before 6pm on the evening of Tuesday 5th January.

Illness and absence

If your child is unwell, even when learning from home remotely, please report absence in the normal way by contacting the school. If your child is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, it is critical that they do not attend school. Instead, please book a COVID-19 test at one of the regional testing centres. Similarly, if any household member is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, it is vital that your child does not attend school until the household member has a confirmed negative test result.

We will continue to update you with information as it emerges – this is a rapidly moving situation and there may well be further changes and updates in the coming days as we respond to national decisions.

Many thanks for your time and support,

Stay safe and well,

Paul Brown

Headteacher

