



Friday 20th March 2020

School Closure due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, today we close our school at 3pm, due to the Government guidance announced this week, regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. We are currently unsure about when we will reopen again but please keep up to date via the school website, where there is a "Home Learning" page:

<https://hesterswayprimaryschool.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/hesterswayprimaryschool/>

If you need to contact us please use the emails on the website or personal message via Facebook.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all of the parent/carers who have supported us so positively during this extremely challenging time. The pupils this week have been calm, carried on and learnt so much in science and PSHE about Coronavirus and how to protect themselves through good personal hygiene - we hope they can keep this up at home! They are amazing children!

The latest Government guidance:

"As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#). And the most **recent scientific advice** on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked **parents to keep their children at home**, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend."

With regards to us partially opening on Monday, we have already contacted vulnerable pupil parent/carers, who are eligible to this "child-care" provision. Children will not be accessing their usual daily lessons.

The "Key Worker" guidance came out yesterday. Please see below.

The latest Government advice:

"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.**



Key Worker categories:

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.

Education and childcare This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

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.

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 arms-length bodies.

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).

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.

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.

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.

If you think that you are eligible for our "Key-Worker" provision, during this challenging time, then **please fill in the form** attached. You may need to prove your employment details and we must have two contact details for emergencies, as well as medical information and allergies.

Please be aware that we will be stringently following the Public Health guidance and sending home pupils and staff who are not well. Also, if your child is not well **PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM INTO SCHOOL**. This puts other people at risk and will not help to reduce the spread of the virus.

Free School Meals

Free School Meal pupil parent/carers will be contacted, as Natalie is making up a "Fortnight" box, which we will arrange for collection next week. If you are not able to collect please arrange for a family member to collect but also be mindful of the Public Health guidance – keeping social distance and **not coming to school if "self-isolated"**. We may be able to get volunteers to deliver where possible but this cannot be guaranteed.

Food Bank: <https://cheltenham.foodbank.org.uk/>

We have been told that food parcels have been given out from:

<https://www.communitymas.co.uk/gcafe/>

Mental Health and Well-being

CYPS <https://www.gloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/your-services/commissioning/childrens-and-young-peoples-services/>

Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk Parents helpline - 0800 802 5544

Anxiety UK: www.anxietyuk.org.uk

Kooth: www.kooth.com

Young carers: <http://www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk/>

Frank: www.talktofrank.com

Samaritans: www.samaritans.org.uk

We wish all of our pupils and families all the best at this very challenging time. Any news or updates will be posted on Facebook or the website.

Take good care everyone!

Kind regards,

Kirsti Ashman