

# **CANON BURROWS C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT**

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Dear Parents/carers,

Following on from my last update, I'm writing to let you know that we have now been instructed to close the school to **almost all** children **today** until further notice. School will be having a deep clean at 3.30pm today and I have instructed all the staff to go home, spend time with their own families and have a well-earned rest over the weekend.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers and children with certain needs.

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.**

The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect valuable keyworkers such as teachers and vulnerable individuals in wider society.

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** (ie with their other parent/carer who is not a key worker) then your children will be prioritised for education provision:



- 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.

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

School will do our best to accommodate shift patterns of key workers, but due to reduced staffing levels ask that wherever possible keyworkers inform school of their shift patterns and preferred days and times a week in advance. A member of staff will be in touch with you at some point today to collect and collate this information. Staff will be asking you to confirm your employment and that of any other parents/carers in the household, this may feel intrusive but I ask that you are kind and patient with staff who are ensuring their own safety as well as that of many other vital key workers and their families.

If you have contacted school via the email address provided to request key worker childcare but having read the guidance today feel you no longer require this as you can manage to keep your child safe at home through remote working practices then please do get in contact to ease the workload on our staffing at this challenging time.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Fildes