



Ryhope Infant School Academy
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Headteacher: Mrs T Allen

Friday, 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following much confusion yesterday, the Government has updated their guidance on who can be identified as a "Key Worker" in critical sectors. These include:

Health and social care

Frontline health and social care staff such as doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, as well as support and specialist staff in health and social care sector including those working as part of the health and social care supply chain.

Education and childcare

Nursery, teaching staff, social workers and other staff whose roles must remain active to deliver the Education provision.

Key public services

Those required to run the justice system, religious staff, as well as those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

Administrative occupations essential to the delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services, including payment of benefits.

Food and other necessary goods

Those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery.

Public safety and national security

Police, support staff, Ministry of Defence civilian staff and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue staff, and those responsible for border security, prisons and probation.

Transport

Those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating.

Utilities, communication and financial services

Staff required to keep oil, gas, electricity, water and sewerage operations running. Staff in civil nuclear, chemical and telecommunications sectors. Those in postal services and those working to provide essential financial services.

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We will be opening our school to these workers only when parents are scheduled to work. **The school will be open from 8:50am to 3:15pm. There will be no breakfast or afterschool care available**

If you are a “Key Worker” and are not scheduled to work, your child MUST stay at home. If you have a partner at home who is NOT a “Key Worker”, your child should also remain at home. This is to protect all of our children, staff and their families.

If you feel that you fall into the category of a key worker you need to confirm this with your employer and that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of essential public services. You will need to let us know **no later than 3:30pm today**, that you will need to access to an educational provision and on which days.

We will be asking for proof of employment for “Key Workers”, this could be in the form of a staff ID badge or pay slip. If it is not clear from these items that you fall into one of the “Key Worker” categories, then we will need a letter from your employer confirming that you fall into the current “Key Worker” guidelines, as communicated by the Government **before** we are able to accommodate your child.

The local authority has also made it clear that they **WILL NOT be providing a school lunch** unless your child is entitled to means tested Free School Meals. Therefore, for those children attending school who are not entitled to means tested Free School Meals, you will need to provide a packed lunch for your child. The school will have no access to ANY kitchen facilities so please ensure your child comes to school with a nutritious packed lunch. We will not allow chocolate or sweets to be consumed in school.

The official guidance remains to be that if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. If a child has an EHCP, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a key worker, then educational provision will be available for them.

This is an extremely worrying time for everyone but we ask that you are as co-operative and as patient as possible. Please remember these are unprecedented times and everyone is trying to do their best to help support their communities.

Yours sincerely



Mrs T Allen
Headteacher

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