



Dear Parents,
2020

20th March

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Update.

The following is an extract from a new guidance document issued this morning from the government. **It states clearly, that parents who can keep their children at home, should do so.** If you cannot do this, and your job is critical and on the list of key workers stated, further down, then you should be able to have a place in a school for your child/children.

*'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.'*

Next week, from 23rd March, we will be open ONLY to the children, of parents with a critical role, children who have an EHCP or social worker, and this school place is agreed by school. If we get to a stage where we are short of staff due to self-isolation or illness, we will have to co-ordinate with other local schools and your school place may be at one of those rather than Honeybourne. We will work as hard as we can to keep places available at Honeybourne; using the guidance, this is a school decision. Parents will be advised by text, via our website and via signs on the school door/office window and the onus is on parents checking these communications regularly. We ask that parents respect our decision in allocation of places.

The list of jobs eligible for a school place is set out below:

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 workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

If your school is closed then please [contact your local authority](#), who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.

The full guidance document 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>

Parents are advised to use the form on the website to apply for an exceptional school place and state clearly why you need the place. It is important that parents let us know if they would like us to provide a lunch for your children next week. As mentioned in a previous letter, this is likely to be a sandwich lunch. Please send trainers for outdoor use and a coat. We have not yet worked out what our provision will look like, but will do so once we know which children we are catering for.

Thank you all for your kind supportive comments and actions and thank you for a huge response to the food bank collection today – the people of Honeybourne will be very grateful.

Stay safe and keep smiling,

Kind regards,

Elaine Huntington
HEADTEACHER