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Covid-19 update: Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The list of key workers has now been confirmed by the government.

The government has stated that they want parents to keep children at home whenever possible to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

If children can stay safely at home they should do.

Yesterday we spoke to many of you to find out whether you thought you would fall in to the key worker category.

Today we will be contacting you again to find out if your children can stay safely at home.

If you are not contacted, and are a key worker and cannot keep your children safely at home please let us know as a matter of urgency so we can plan our provision.

We will be contacting people as soon as we can so we thank you for your patience.

I would like to say again that as a community you have been amazing and incredibly supportive of one another. It is at times like these I am most proud of working for the West Earham community and want to thank you very much for the calm way you have approached this really difficult situation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Parry-Jones

Here is the information the government released this morning regarding Key Workers and vulnerable children and school attendance:

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

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.

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, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

