

St Luke's Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr S Hardaker

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This is an important message for parents and carers who believe they are sending their child to school over the coming days. The Government's advice about sending your child into school if you are a key worker or if your child is vulnerable can be interpreted in different ways. Even since the information we sent out on Friday, events have changed over the weekend. Therefore I am making it very clear within this letter that **if you send your child to school when they don't really need to, you are putting your children, yourself and other people's children and our staff at extreme risk of infection. This, we must avoid.**

The default position is that school is closed. The Secretary of State has clarified his initial comments and now says that "if a child can stay safely at home, then they should be at home".

Sending your child in when you can make other arrangements, places them and my staff at increased risk.

Children in care

All our children in care are in a safe and caring environment which is being assessed as such. If this was not the case, they would not have been placed there. As such, we are asking that all such children remain at home unless both carers are key workers and there are no other viable alternatives. This advice may differ from your original understanding on Thursday or Friday and replaces this original advice and plan.

Key Workers

Again, a consensus has emerged over the weekend which replaces previously accepted advice. **If you are a key worker yourself and you are able to find alternative child care then do not send your child to school.** As a school we maintain that we will prioritise the families with two key workers. **Those of you who have one key worker in the family and you have been allocated a child care place, I ask you to ask yourself "is it essential to send your child to school?"** Please be aware that you may be asked to find alternative child care arrangements in the coming days. Staffing is becoming increasingly depleted and we may not be able to maintain staff to child ratios.

On Friday of last week we contacted all parents who had applied by 3pm and indicated that they needed to send their child to school. This isn't a long list and I thank you for your cooperation in supporting us. However, if you expect your child to come into school tomorrow, please read this letter carefully again. **We need to reduce the list even further to the absolute minimum to keep our staff and your child as safe as possible.** If you have not received notification that your child has received a place and you intend to bring your child to school you will be refused entry.

Please remember that these measures are to slow the spread of the infection in our community and protect the elderly, vulnerable and those with underlying medical conditions. **Government advice is that where possible people should work from home and minimise social mixing. This applies to children attending school.**

I appreciate that this may be difficult for some of you but during these unprecedented times we all must make challenging decisions that ultimately will keep us all safe.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

S Hardaker

Mr S Hardaker
Headteacher