



Tannery Drift First School

ROYSTON • HERTFORDSHIRE

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

National Lockdown: School at home & Critical Worker places

Following the latest Government announcement, I have been instructed to partially **close the school to almost all children until at least February Half Term**. It is important that children, parents and carers be ready to work from home, the information below has been put together to help everyone get organised for this.

In anticipation of the boiler being fixed, school will be open on **Monday 11th January** to children of **critical workers** (also known as key workers) and those children who require specialist support or are vulnerable.

Children of key workers

I attach the most recent critical worker list from the Government. I understand this is a challenging time and the advice received so far has added limited clarity but I wanted to share some key messages with you. School will continue to do all it can to **support the emergency response and keep our community safe**. We will shortly be sending a ParentMail form to all families, to be completed if you are a key worker.

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 do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus.**

As long as we can safely staff the school we will remain open to key workers. We may have to prioritise according to roles and this will be reviewed on a weekly basis. It will be essential for us to continue to ask staff and children to self-isolate if they or someone in their home experiences Covid-19 symptoms or receives a positive test result, which may result in bubbles closing.

Vulnerable Groups

Once we have clear data around key workers we will review what the school day will look like for **vulnerable and EHCP children**.

If your child usually receives **Free School Meals** (not Universal Free School Meals) we will also be in

touch with more information about how we will provide this, with support from our caterers, Herts Catering. Details to follow.

Wrap Around Provision

Bookings at Breakfast Club, Stay & Play or After School Club will be cancelled for the duration of closure. Payments will be refunded and held in credit until we fully reopen. We will communicate wrap around care plans for key worker children directly to parents but we are hoping to be able to offer full wrap around provision if staffing allows.

Home Learning

We will send a separate communication about home learning, please look out for this.

Music Tuition

If your child receives music tuition at school you will receive a separate communication when we know more.

Nursery Provision

The government announcement indicated that Early Years provision would remain open although the Department for Education has not yet confirmed whether this applies to school based nurseries or childcare settings only. Once we have some clarity we will let you know, in the meantime, it would help us if Nursery parents who would require a key worker place for their child (in the event that the Nursery were not to be open fully) could complete the ParentMail form that is sent out today.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we will keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

Please keep safe and well, be reminded that there are links on our website as well as information to support you at this time <https://tannerydrift.herts.sch.uk/family-support/>

Thank you for your continued support and understanding at this time.

Kind regards,

Anna Greetham

Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs Anna Greetham

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