Friday 31st December 2020

**RE: JANUARY 2021 COVID CLOSURE**

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will probably be aware from the government’s announcement that schools will be required to remain closed to most pupils until, *at least*, Monday 18th January. This is based on the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of the new COVID-19 variant and the significantly high level of Covid in the Three Rivers area: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51768274>.

If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading and protect the elderly and vulnerable from serious illness. Please consider this when making any decisions about sending your children in. This is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers: The appendix lists what qualifies as a vulnerable child or critical worker and I also attach the link to the government website.

So that we can ensure provision is planned and managed effectively, if you believe you qualify to send your child into school, please could you complete the attached form and return it to [admin@littlegreen.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@littlegreen.herts.sch.uk) by Sunday 3rd January 2021. We will then spend our Inset day on Monday finalising arrangements. **School will open for Critical Worker Children on TUESDAY 4th January 2021. Remote Learning will also begin on this day.**

Some details we can confirm at this stage:

**Learning From Home:**

1. All children not attending school will be able to access their learning via GoogleClassroom in line with the previously shared Remote Learning Policy.
2. We have a limited number of Chromebooks we are able to loan to parents - please contact the school office for more details.
3. **Please CANCEL any pre-orders for food.**

**Learning in School:**

1. Staggered start and end times remain the same.
2. Children will be in Year Group Critical Worker Bubbles.
3. We will aim to continue to offer a hot meal at lunch- **please order on-line.**

Thank you for your ongoing support during these challenging times.

Yours faithfully,

D Roberts

Headteacher

**Parent Response Form**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Your Name |  |
| Child’s name |  |
| Age and class/year |  |
| Will your child be attending school next week because you are a critical worker or they have an EHCP? | Yes/No |
| If yes, please complete the following: | Single parent or both parents/carers work in front line roles e.g.   * NHS staff * Education staff (Teacher / support staff) * Delivery Driver * Social care * Other [please state - see appendices for more info’] * Please provide a payroll slip or contract letter confirming your position.   Or does your child have an EHCP?  Yes/No |
| Will you want your child to have a meal whilst at school? | Y/N |
| Are you entitled to Free School Meals? | Y/N |

Appendix 1: Vulnerable children Critical Worker Definitions: (from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> 31.12.2020 0958)

Vulnerable children and young people

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

* are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
* have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
* have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  + children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services
  + adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’)
  + those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers
  + those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  + others at the provider and local authority’s discretion

## Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

### 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:

* childcare
* support and teaching staff
* social workers
* specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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
* 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 coronavirus (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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
* 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 coronavirus (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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
* 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
* waste disposal sectors