

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I trust you and your families are well and remain symptomatic free.

### **Clarification on Key Worker Status**

I have now received clarification from the Cabinet Office on who is considered a 'key worker':

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your child will be prioritised for any reduced 'child care' provision we hope to be arranging at Carwarden.

#### **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. *(Whilst this does not specifically mention Teaching Assistants, we believe these staff are included in the group of education professionals required to remain working).*

#### **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 you are a 'key worker' in any of the sectors outlined above AND can not keep your child safely at home then please email me ASAP so that we can plan to make appropriate child care provision. Thanks to those who have already done so. [tim.stokes@carwarden.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:tim.stokes@carwarden.surrey.sch.uk)

If Carwarden 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.

## Reduced Provision Planning

Government has advised that we should make case-by-case basis assessments of the health and safeguarding considerations of all our students. For some (a few), they may be safer accessing reduced provision at our school. For others (the majority), they will be safer at home.

When considering which children will be offered child-care provision, we will give priority to:.

- Students whose parents are key workers (as outlined above)
- Students who have a social worker include children in need, children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority.
- A few students who we believe need access to child-care provision to ensure they are safeguarded.

Please note that, whilst we will also want to look to support other children who are vulnerable where we are able to do so, we are clear that, even if your child has an EHCP, they will NOT automatically be offered child-care provision. It will depend on the individual risk assessment we are currently undertaking.

We would ask you to follow these key principles set out by Government:

1. If it is at all possible for your children to be at home, then they should be.
2. 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.
3. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in **any way** which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Please email me ASAP to confirm if you intend to keep your child at home. Thanks to those who have already done so.

If it is deemed safe for staff to return to work next week after this period of self-isolation closure, then we propose to open our new reduced 'child-care' provision on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. We require the Wednesday as a whole staff to plan the safest and best possible offer.

We hope to be informing you on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> if your child is being offered a place. We will make every endeavour to ensure new transport arrangements are in place. We will also provide broad details of the new provision the day before we open so that those students invited to attend know what to expect!

## **Support for students who qualify for free school meals**

The Government have yet to announce the introduction of a National Voucher Scheme. We have now agreed arrangements to provide financial support for our families who qualify for free school meals in the meantime. We will transfer £15 per week directly into the bank account of parents who have a child that qualifies. This is marginally more than the cost of school lunches but takes account of the fact that individuals are unable to 'bulk buy' in the same way as our caterers.

If your child qualifies for free school meals please email: [jane.thorpe@carwarden.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:jane.thorpe@carwarden.surrey.sch.uk) with your bank account details (name on account, sort code & account number). **Please note that we cannot make payments until next Wednesday.** We will transfer £30 at this point (£15 for this week and payment for next week). If your child is one of the minority that is offered a child-care placement at Carwarden, then we intend to provide them with a meal at school and you would not receive payment.

## **Staying in contact**

We believe it is really important that our students keep in some form of contact with each and continue to feel part of the Carwarden 'family', even if they aren't attending school. One way of achieving this is sending us photos of your child at home – perhaps doing their homework or enjoying other activities. We will post these on our website. Please send photos to [lucy.proudfoot@carwarden.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:lucy.proudfoot@carwarden.surrey.sch.uk)

Kind regards and stay safe,

Tim

T S Stokes  
Headteacher