



Five Ways Primary School

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20th March 2020

3.00pm

Dear Parents,

Provision for pupils whose parents are Key Workers

We are in the process of contacting parents who have already applied for positions at Five Ways during closure. Ahead of receiving this contact, please keep in mind the reason for this closure. The government has closed schools to restrict movement and reduce contagion. We would once more appeal to you only to request a position at the school out of necessity so that you can continue with your key role at work. If others are able to care for your child in your absence this should be the first option considered or the whole purpose of closure is undermined.

The guidance is clear: “If children can stay safely at home, they should.” This means that if one parent is not in a ‘key role’ this should be taken into consideration. My view, as your headteacher and based on the guidance is that all parents should endeavour to keep their children at home safely. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread across Heath Hayes and the wider Staffordshire community.

In summary, the scientific guidance is clear: the fewer children we have in school each day the greater chance we have of limiting the chance of the virus spreading.

Any offer we make will be purely to accommodate children safely. The Government have made it clear this week that this is no longer education but ‘Emergency Childcare’ and, although this is not the norm for us, we will **NOT** be providing normal schooling. I must also make you aware that unfortunately, provision will not be accessible on an ad hoc basis and without an invitation from the school.

Further details regarding times, site access, registration groups and safety procedures will be shared with the parents of pupils who are offered a place after 3.00pm tomorrow, once I have a clearer idea of pupil numbers.

Our capacity is limited and may deteriorate if any of the small pool of staff that we have available for ‘Emergency Childcare’ become unwell themselves. If we receive more applications than we are able to accommodate due to staff shortages, we will need to prioritise the pupils attending school next week.

Please bear with us during this difficult process and bear in mind that we are receiving all of our information in exactly the same way that you are – from the national press.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Mander
Headteacher

