



Kings Meadow School

Believe and Achieve



20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Important coronavirus Covid-19 update and school closures

The government has now published a document with more information and guidance in relation to which children can continue to attend school from Monday 23 March. The link to this guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>

We are in the position of being asked to keep our school open, however as Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education stated:

“Special schools are advised to make assessment on a case by case basis of the health and safeguarding considerations of pupils on an EHCP. For some, they will be in an education provision. For others, they will be safer at home. The Secretary of State trusts leaders to make these decisions.”

Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education

The government has also recognised that some schools may be unable to offer their full or indeed any provision due to experiencing significant staffing shortages.

There are some other key principles to remember from the guidance:

1. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be**
2. Schools remain open only to those children who absolutely need to attend.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as people over 70 or those with underlying health conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principle as adults.

At Kings Meadow, we have worked hard today to consider how we can continue to remain open. Due to a significantly reduced staffing capacity, we are unable to remain open as normal and offer an educational place to all pupils. We will be offering a reduced service next week and will be open to a small group of identified pupils on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 am to 1.30 pm. If your child has been identified as part of that group, you will have received a telephone call from us today to discuss this. **Therefore, if you have not had a call, please do not send your child to school next week.**

This arrangement will continue for the next two weeks until the end of term. However, due to the ever-changing nature of the situation, we will be reviewing this daily. If our staffing levels improve, we may be able to offer places to more children and we hope to be able to do this over time.

Parents and carers should also note that we will only remain open if our risk assessment indicates that it is safe for all pupils and staff to do so. It may be necessary to close at short notice if we do not have enough staff on site so please continue to check your School Comms messages and our website on a regular basis.



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We are setting up a dedicated 'Coronavirus Covid-19' space on our school website where all information will be stored to help you keep up to date more easily. Ideas for things to do with your children will also be available on the website and many children have already received packs from their class teachers over the last week with activities. More ideas will be sent home over the next few weeks.

This is a very difficult and challenging time for all of us. We will do everything we can to continue to provide some sort of service and to keep in touch with all of our pupils and families, regardless of whether they are attending school or not. The school office will be open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for the next two weeks. Messages can be left on Thursday and Friday and these will be monitored and responded to as soon as we can. Please bear with us at this uncertain time.

Please make sure that you are looking after yourselves and your families and following the government guidance to help you stay healthy and well.

We are a school community and we will all get through this and be stronger when we come out the other side. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs McCormack
Head Teacher

