



Peafield Lane Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers

Further to the email/Dojo sent out this morning:

As you will no doubt be aware, the government released the list of key workers and further clarity on vulnerable children, in the early hours of this morning. A full copy of the guidance is available on this link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The key message from the government is that, if children can stay safely at home, they should, to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents and carers, wherever possible, to keep their children at home. Schools have been asked to stay open to provide childcare for those children who absolutely need to attend.

This service is not open to all, and if you are able to keep your children at home, then you must do so. Government advice says that staying at home is the safest place for children and will prevent rapid spread of the infection. Sending your child into school should be as a last resort or because you are required for critical work.

Children of essential Key Workers

Based upon the responses to the text I sent out this morning, asking parents to inform us if they need childcare, I am pleased to say that **we can cater for everyone who replied and said they need it.** This will take us over-capacity but we are anticipating that some of these will be for some days and not others. As such, we will not need to send out a questionnaire to determine your specific circumstances just yet. I am eternally grateful to those of you who said that you are key workers but have said you will keep your children off school; it is your responses that have allowed us to provide the service – you know who you are.

Later today we will text the families of identified key workers to book their places for next week.

We can only continue to offer school places if:

- The number of children taking up the offer are sufficiently low
- The number of teaching staff is sufficiently high

This will therefore need to be reviewed daily and is subject to future Government changes in guidance. If ratios are too high we will have no option but to close for *all* pupils. **PLEASE, only send children in if you absolutely need to.**

For now, we will use the school text messaging service to book places although we hope to improve this to something a little 'tidier' as we move forward.

Children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM):

Those children usually eligible for benefits related free school meals will still receive a meal each day. This will be available to both FSM children attending the childcare provision available and those at home. If any FSM children are in school – we will sort out their lunch. The school will provide a packed lunch for all of those working from home which can be collected between 10:30am and 11:30am and taken home.

Please be aware that *this does not include universal free school meals* for all children in Key Stage 1 and is only available to those who meet the benefits related free school meals criteria. If you are unsure as to whether you meet these criteria, please contact the school.

For those that are not eligible for benefits related free school meals, who meet the criteria and are attending school **on Monday**, children will need to be sent to school with a packed lunch. We are still awaiting further clarification from the Local Authority on whether or not their staff will be able to provide a hot meal throughout the rest of the week and will send further details about the arrangements as soon as we know.

Tasks and Activities for children – working from home

It is essential that all children are supported in their learning during this time of uncertainty and we know that you will be keen to play your part in this. Staff have been working hard over the recent period in anticipation of school closure and will be providing learning opportunities during this time. It is an expectation that all children engage in the learning provided and we will be monitoring this activity. Where children appear not to be accessing these learning opportunities, we will follow up with parents.

A letter outlining our learning provision was sent out earlier in the week. The only difference is that there will be some days when teachers are not available to provide online support as they will be each working 2 days per week in school.

Much of the learning we are asking pupils to do at home is based online. Today we are sending home iPads for some pupils to borrow who have been unable to complete our 'dummy run' because they have no access.

It is essential that children understand the rules and steps to keep themselves safe whilst working online. Please ensure children are properly supervised and that they are not left alone for long periods of time browsing the internet. We have strict firewalls at school to block inappropriate content that you will not have at home.

Those children that continue to attend school will also be accessing the same learning – there will not be separate provision for those in school compared to those working from home.

We will continually reassess the situation as more information is made available and will ensure we keep all parents and carers updated.

Remember that the latest guidance from Public Health England can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

We appreciate the situation will create additional pressures for families, we will continue to seek out ways in which you can seek out support, similar to the document I posted on Dojo yesterday.

Finally

This letter aims to outline the *arrangements we are putting in place for the next week*. However we will constantly review the situation and keep you all informed. Things are changing minute by minute – If this letter appears a little disjointed it is because I've had to write and rewrite sections and new information arrives from various different organisations.

We're on this.

Good luck. I'll be in touch soon.



Gary Walker
Headteacher