



19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

INDEFINITE CLOSURE OF THE HART SCHOOL

As you are aware, the school will be closed for an indefinite period to most pupils as instructed by the Department for Education. We are however open to the children of those identified by the government as **“KEY WORKERS”**. **Please note that the very strong advice from government is that as many pupils as possible should be cared for at home throughout the period of closure.** Allowing your child to come to school should only be used where you are unable to keep your child at home safely.

The full definition of a key worker is available on the Cabinet Office website, and in the attached document. In summary it is defined as those who work in:

Health and social care

Frontline health and social care staff such as doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, as well as support and specialist staff in the health and social care sector. In addition, it includes those working in supply chains including producers and distributors of medicines and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

Nursery, teaching staff and social workers.

Key public services

Those required to run the justice system, religious staff, as well as those responsible for managing the deceased, and journalists providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response or delivering essential public services, including payment of benefits.

Food and other necessary goods

Those involved in the production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of food.

Public safety and national security

Police, support staff, Ministry of Defence civilian staff and armed forces



personnel, fire and rescue staff, and those responsible for border security, prisons and probation.

Transport

Those who will keep air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response.

Utilities, communication and financial service

Staff required to keep oil, gas, electricity, water and sewerage operations running. Staff in the civil nuclear, chemical and telecommunications sectors. Those in postal services and those working to provide essential financial services.

If your child falls into the category identified above, school is open to them at the normal times during term time. This means that they may attend as usual from Monday 23 March until Friday 3 April during normal school hours. If you are a parent or carer in this category, you must decide whether you will keep your child at home or send them to school. In order to properly safeguard pupils, they must either attend full time (i.e. from 8.40 a.m. to 3.10 p.m.) or not at all. The usual absence procedures will be followed for those pupils whose parents/carers choose to send them to school in order to ensure that all children are properly accounted for.

If you are a key worker and choose to send your child to school, please complete the form that you can access via the remote learning page on the website as soon as possible but at least by Sunday 22 March 4.00p.m. so that we can plan appropriate provision. We will acknowledge receipt of your request and you should not send your child to school on Monday unless you have received confirmation from the school. This is essential to ensure that all children are in appropriate care with parents/carers or at school. We will need you to evidence the nature of your key worker role, this can be evidenced for example by a scan of identify cards. We apologise for the need to do this but feel this is essential in ensuring that the provision is available for those where it is absolutely necessary and to reduce the contact that increases the risk of the virus spreading.

If your child does not fall into this category, arrangements for their remote learning at home can be accessed via our school website.

Thank you for your cooperation during these difficult times for us all.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Keen
Principal