



Goostrey Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

The guidance for schools remaining open from Monday has now been posted on the government website in the early hours of this morning.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

This guidance is very clear; “If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.”

It is our view based on this guidance, that wherever possible, families should keep their children at home safely.

However, schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children; This limit has been set by the government as a maximum of 20% of pupils on roll – for us this means 43 pupils. **These children for who this provision is requested are defined as children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.** This request for schools to provide this care is not about ‘entitlement’ it is about doing the right thing for the greater good of society; accommodating the greatest need and limiting social interaction and the spread of the virus - allowing schools to stay open for those who need it the most.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, ‘looked after’ children, young carers, disabled children and those with EHCPs.

Occupations critical to the Covid-19 response are listed on the link above:

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors, or your children are classed as vulnerable, as above, our school staff are committed to providing childcare. We are planning this cover from 8 00am Before School provision with Superkids continuing to provide after normal school hours care depending on number of places required.

What will provision look like in school?

This is a very different type of provision than schools usually provide; for these pupils, it will be about care, not education. This is about keeping children safe and allowing key workers to go to work and care for the sick, or to keep food supply chains moving.

Can the school still decide they need to close?

It remains the case that if we do not have enough staff to care for pupils safely (even based on the new 'reduced provision' approach) then, subject to a risk assessment and consultation with the chair of governors, a full or partial closure may be necessary. We will review the situation daily.

Again, fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread to staff and therefore allow the school to remain open.

What we need you to do now:

Once you have considered the above information, please contact us ASAP, by 2 00 PM at the latest, to confirm if you will be requiring this provision, stating under which criteria the place is required and for which days next week. Emails will be responded to up until 5 00 PM today and then as normal from 9 00AM on Monday.

Please also let us know if this provision will need to include before and after normal school hours cover so we can inform Before School Club and Superkids (normal charges for both will apply).

The school kitchen will remain operational for those children accessing this provision, so we will also need to know if a school meal is required and on which days.

Those families who are currently registered as eligible for Income Related Free School Meals will be contacted separately regarding how the provision of free meals in the form of a voucher will work.

We thank you for your patience while we have been putting plans together. This has been a very difficult time for everyone in school, and we are trying our best to keep our pupils, families and staff safe and reassured. The key message is that schools are closed, but we are doing what we can to support our families, given these unprecedented circumstances.

Kind regards

Miss Atkins
Headteacher

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