



# ROBERT MELLORS PRIMARY ACADEMY

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20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March until further notice**. As a country we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The government, having acted upon scientific advice, has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

However, as advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the limited number of children who absolutely need to attend. These are children of key workers (see list at the bottom of this letter) and children with EHCPs, those supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including those with child in need plans, or on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, and disabled children.

Children who have at least one parent or carer who are identified as a key worker by the government can attend school **if required**. However, the government has also advised that 'many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure that their child is kept at home. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be**'.

If you meet the above criteria, your child will be able to attend school from 8.50am – 3.15pm each day, where a modified timetable will have been put in place. We are working closely with the Lime Trees and hope to be able to provide wrap-around care for children who are able to attend school. This before and after school club will be open from 7:30am until 6:00pm. To enquire about a place in this club, please contact [hello@thelimetrees.co.uk](mailto:hello@thelimetrees.co.uk) or call on 0115 9313562 as soon as possible. Please note that this provision may **not** be in place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the administrative task of putting this in place.

If you are a key worker and your child will be attending school during this period, could you please phone the school office to provide your child's name and year group and ensure that your child arrives at school in uniform as normal on Monday.

If your work is part time, please identify the days when your child will be attending school during the week.

**All other children must remain at home, and we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as will have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully when instructed to do so and will keep in touch via the school texting service and website.



**What we'll continue doing while your child is at home:**

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

Our plan for continuing education remotely includes the following:

- Resource packs have been provided to all pupils – please ensure your child completes the work – this can be returned to school once we re-open
- There will be regular information and links to educational resources on our website
- We will keep in touch with you via text messages to let you know further details

The school kitchen will be open on Monday. If your child normally has a free school meal, then this will be provided for them. Alternatively, you may wish to pay for meals or send your child with a packed lunch. When you contact school to let us know that your child will be attending school, you will be asked to confirm what you wish your child's lunch time arrangements to be.

**What we won't be able to go ahead with:**

- School trips
- After-school clubs
- Events
- Internal exams or tests

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via the office email address: [office@robertmellors.org.uk](mailto:office@robertmellors.org.uk) or by phone on 0115 8408068.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#). The 'stay at home' guidance still remains the same as we have communicated with you over the past week.

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Essex  
Head Teacher



## **Critical/Key workers – government defined**

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

### **Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment

### **Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

### **Key public services**

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

### **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

### **Public safety and national security**

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.



## **Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

## **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

