

# Coates Way School

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

As you will be aware, today is the last day of school for the foreseeable future for the majority of our children. However, the Government have made it very clear that there is a large number of people whose work is important in the fight to beat the coronavirus. Therefore, the Government has announced that schools will stay open and provide childcare (not education) for the children of these key workers.

Attached to this letter is a document that outlines who is classed as a key worker. After you have read this document and you believe that you are in the category to continue to send your child into school you need to notify the school immediately in order that we can make the necessary arrangements. This has to be done **this morning** as we are required to notify the local authority of numbers of children who will be attending school by mid-day today.

Please note that your child will only be attending school if you meet one or more of the following:

- Your child has an Educational, Health and Care plan in place (EHC plan),
- Your work is directly linked to one of the categories outlined in the attached document issued by the Government (you may be asked to provide proof of your employment).

If this does not apply to you please do not send your child into school as they will be turned away.

The government have repeated in numerous documents that the safest place for child is at home and not mixing with other children and adults.

If you are able to send your child into school, you understand that the national curriculum has been put on hold and schools are only obliged to offer childcare. We will not be teaching lessons to the children. Breakfast club will not be running. The school will run from 8.00 am to 4.30pm.

As yet, we do not know what is going to happen in terms of catering. Hopefully, that will be sorted out by the end of the day

In addition we also need to remind everyone that if anyone in the family comes down with one of the symptoms i.e. continuous cough or a temperature then all members of the household must self-isolate for a 14 day period.

Please bear with us whilst we sort these new arrangements out as the timescales to organise everything has been incredibly tight. And I can please add that there is long list of people who are fighting on the front line whose working hours mean that they can only shop when they finish their shift. They need to be able to go to the shops and buy supplies as well. Stop panic buying!

Finally, please keep yourselves safe and follow all the advice given by the government. This is a battle that we can win if everyone pulls together in the same direction.

Steven Wells

Head teacher