

Learning together to be the best we can be



Headteacher - Nichola Irving

Horton Grange Primary School, Cowpen Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 4RE. Tel 01670 353503

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As announced by the Government two days ago to help fight the spread of coronavirus, schools are closed from the end of the school day on Friday 20 March. The Government has asked schools to open to provide care for children of key workers and vulnerable children. This is not a statutory requirement - schools are being asked to help as part of a national response.

In response to the new Government guidelines this morning regarding key workers we will attempt to remain open on Monday for children who are offered places only. We are advised this should not exceed 20% of the school population initially and is dependent on staffing levels. This will be done on a priority basis, based on this advice, and we have a limited number of places.

It is clear from Government advice that **“if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading” and to keep schools open for critical workers with no other option of child care.** We ask that parents do all they can to follow this advice so we can stay open. If this is not followed this could force schools to close due to staffing levels.

Places will be offered on a priority basis in this order to:

1)	Vulnerable children (on an EHCP plan or health care plan - if they CAN NOT be looked after safely at home)
2)	Children of <u>critical workers</u> where both parents are on the list below or a single parent family – if they CAN NOT be looked after at home safely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) NHS workers b) Police front line workers c) Education and child care d) Uniformed Fire Service e) Health and Social care f) Prison workers g) Armed forces
3)	Children of other <u>key workers</u> below where both parents are on the list below or a single parent family – if they CAN NOT be looked after at home safely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key transport - those who keep the air, water, road and rail passengers operating during COVID19 response • Food and necessary goods - food production or delivery • Local Government - only frontline services



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilities and financial - essential for COVID19 response - banks, building societies, oil, gas and electricity employees • Public Services - management of deceased, journalists, religious staff or running of the justice system, charities.
4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in households where one parent is a <u>critical worker</u> (only in circumstances where it is not possible for a child to be kept safely at home)
5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in households where one parent is a <u>key worker</u> (only in circumstances where it is not possible for a child to be kept safely at home)

If you think you fall within these categories and haven't already contacted school please phone the school office by 12.30pm today or as soon as possible and confirm your category. Also if you have contacted already and no longer need a place please contact by 12.30pm.

Please do not phone the school office with other queries today as they need to deal with the urgent matter of keeping school open for children of critical workers.

You will be contacted today to be informed of whether you have been allocated a place for Monday. We cannot confirm how long this place will continue to be provided for as things change on a daily basis.

Please be advised that the recommendation is that parents should do all they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

We have also been advised that children who have compromised respiratory conditions such as asthma should take extra measures to ensure social distancing.

Thank you in advance for your full cooperation at this very difficult time - we are incredibly grateful for all your support.

Protect yourself to protect others!

Regards

N Irving

Mrs Irving