



19th March 2020

Dear Parents/carers

Children of 'key workers'

Last night the government announced that schools will close at the end of the day on Friday, but should remain open, if possible, to care for the children of key workers and vulnerable students. This letter is focussed just on the first category: 'key workers'.

The definition of a key worker is not yet clear. However, we would like to make a start on identifying how many students this affects in order that we can then put in place the best plans for next week that work for everyone. Our current position is as follows:

- Schools are being asked to look after students of these families so that they can undertake their important work. We will not be a position to run lessons. Instead, we will run supported study sessions based in our computer rooms. Students will be able to access the online learning materials that we are publishing and will be supported by a member of staff throughout the day.
- This is not compulsory for those students. In particular, you may decide that older students are capable of looking after themselves safely during the day. It is important that we remember why this is happening. Firstly, this is an attempt to restrict social contact as much as possible to slow the transmission of coronavirus. Secondly, it protects the most vulnerable, especially those over 70, who may otherwise be asked to undertake childcare.
- Those children who have an underlying health condition that makes them more vulnerable to the coronavirus, should not attend. The government advice that sets out the conditions that put individuals at risk can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

- We are not sure that transport services will be running. I have asked Somerset County Council to clarify this as a matter of urgency.

The indications so far are that key worker includes the following groups:

- **NHS staff**
- **Emergency services – police, ambulance, fire services**
- **Food delivery drivers**
- **Those caring for vulnerable and elderly people**

If you are one of these key workers and believe that you will need to send your child into school, please would you email jstitch@educ.somerset.gov.uk. If you could do so by 9am tomorrow (Friday 20th) that would significantly help our planning.

We believe that these occupational categories will be expanded later today and will write further when we have those details. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Woodlock', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Mark Woodlock
Headteacher