

# Westfields Infant School

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**Headteacher:** Mrs Janette Teague



4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

This was not the first letter of the new year that I wanted to be sending you but following the Prime Minister's announcement about new national restrictions this evening, I regret to inform you that we will be closed to the majority of children from tomorrow. I will write to you again tomorrow to give you information about our remote learning offer.

As during the previous lockdown in March, we will remain open to children of key workers and vulnerable children (children with an EHC plan or children who are open to child social care services). The DfE has provided a list of roles below that are considered to be critical. In order to support the idea of limiting contact with others, we ask that **every child** of a key worker who can be safely cared for at home should be.

**Health and social care:** 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:** childcare, support 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:** roles 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, and the delivery of and response to EU transition, essential public services such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

**Food and other necessary goods:** those 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:** 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 and EU transition), 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:** those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

**Utilities, communication and financial services:** 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 you feel you meet the criteria of a key worker, and there is no-one else in your household who can look after your child, or if your child meets the criteria of a vulnerable child please bring them to school as usual tomorrow morning. Staff will be in their usual classrooms to greet the children. If your child is booked onto the SCL breakfast club, please drop them off as usual from 7.30am. Initially we ask that all children should be wearing their school uniform. School dinners will be available or your child may bring a packed lunch. We will assess the situation and we will send out further information during the day about how we will be organising groups.

If your child is eligible for a benefits related free school meal, but you are not a key worker and they are not considered vulnerable, we will be in touch very soon about the arrangements that we will be putting in place.

I appreciate how challenging and frustrating this situation is and the short notice being given. We ask that you remain patient as we get to grips with a rapidly changing situation.

Yours sincerely,

*Janette Teague*

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Headteacher