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20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Coronavirus Information for Parents V1

Dear Parents,

Great Wood School is closed until further notice from end of school today.  
Do NOT bring children to school on Monday unless this has been arranged with a school leader.  
We have provided learning activities from the new couple of weeks on the school website.  
Children are leaving school with some learning packs (parents of absent pupils can pick them up)

Schools have been asked to "provide childcare for key workers and vulnerable children"

### **School is closed - but Great Wood Key Worker Child Care will operate from Monday.**

School will **offer** places to eligible pupils. The school is in charge of who may attend.

- We are preparing for a lockdown situation as is happening in other parts of the world.
- The purpose is to **minimise social contact to halt the spread of Coronavirus.**
- **"Every child who can be cared for safely at home, should be."**
- Our child care is to enable key workers who have no alternative and would not be able to do their part in helping keep essential services going unless they had child care.
- This may change and key workers will be able to change arrangements over time.
- We are preparing for a national emergency situation, **we expect parents only to use this facility when there is no alternative child care.** It is not so that parents can continue normal life but so that **essential services** can operate. My plan today is to contact parents who have identified that they are key workers. I expect some challenging conversations. My focus will be to minimise social contact where possible. If you think your situation is clear cut, please help me by sending me an email detailing your job. Thank you to the parents who shared details yesterday; there is no need to send it again if you did.
- Once a decisions are made, **you will be contacted to confirm placement.**

Essentially:

- School leaders prioritise eligible children
- Child care needs are worked out with this group- it will be dynamic
- Care will be provided initially 8am to 4:30pm
- Care will continue over the Easter break
- Staff will include, teachers, TA, welfare, Sunrise Sunset staff as arranged by school leaders
- Child will enter school through the Sunrise Sunset Club entrance
- Children will bring a packed lunch and healthy snacks
- Children will NOT be expected to be in uniform
- During school hours we will use mobile
- Email communication will use [GW@greatwood.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:GW@greatwood.lancs.sch.uk)

Some children at school are eligible for Free School Meals. This is different to the Universal School Meal provided to the infants. Free School Meal eligibility is decided by income and parents have to apply.

The school kitchen is closing.

**Parents of children on Free School Meals are asked to pick up a Sainsbury's Shopping Card at the end of the school day from Mr Beal in the school office.**

These are student meal cards. We will put £15 on these cards electronically for every week the school is closed. This is the equivalent of 5 meal deals. These cards can only be used at Sainsbury's for groceries. They can't be used to buy alcohol or cigarettes. The school reserves the right to request what has been bought on these cards, if it is deemed necessary. If the school is closed for longer, they will be topped up.

Children who are eligible to attend Great Wood Key Worker Child Care and are usually served free school meals are asked to bring a packed lunch and snacks as the school kitchen will be closed.

The PTA Summer Festival has been cancelled – We will return payments on Parent Pay  
The London Trips for Year 5 have been cancelled. We will retain the deposit for the moment but return payments. If it turns out the terms and conditions enable us to refund

Finally,

Please retain the key messages sent out. We are preparing for a Health Emergency like none we have seen before. Keep Calm and keep washing your hands. We have free movement at the moment but this may change. Think of others and keep social contact to a minimum.

John Ross  
Headteacher