

Hutton Cranswick CP School

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Dear Parents/Carers

We have been unable to write to you until today due to the late release of the Key Worker list.

Please see the information below, taken from the Government guidelines for schools. I have highlighted parts in red, not because we don't want children in school (we do) but because we feel it's our social duty to do what the Government is asking us to in these unprecedented circumstances.

...the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for these children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. **But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.**

If your work is **critical** to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, **and you cannot keep your child safe at home** then your children will be prioritised for educational provision.

Key Worker List

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to 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

This includes nursery 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

This includes those 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 or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved 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

This includes 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), 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

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes 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 workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

These are the key considerations:

- It is important that schools stay open to support those parents that **crucially** need it. Therefore, **if your child can be safely cared for at home this should be the first priority**. Sending your child to school should be the last resort.
- Parents should do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way that can continue to spread the virus.
- Parents do need to check with their employer that, based upon their business continuity arrangements, **their specific role is essential for the continuity of an essential public service**. If this is unclear, schools may ask for proof from your employer in this case.

This is something that needs a concerted effort from us all. If parents don't follow the rules and we continue to spread the virus at the current rate, we may well be forced to close as key staff will not be able to work. I want to reassure that we will take children in that fall into these categories, but only if it is **essential**.

Now we know the full list of key workers, as a school we need to best plan for the coming weeks.

If you are anticipating sending your children to school at some point because you are on the list please follow the actions below.



Actions to be taken by you:

To allow us to plan staffing for Monday, we need to establish very quickly which parents are key workers **who have no other option but to send their children to school.**

If you are a single parent key worker or a family of key workers and need your child to attend school, please email me on headteacher@huttoncranswick.eriding.net by 12.30pm.

Please include the following information:

1. Your child's name and class
2. Are you and/or your partner a key worker and please can you define that role
3. Whether you need your child to attend full time or on specific days if you work part time
4. If you are likely to need breakfast club (at this stage we do not know if this will be available)
5. We are unsure if we will be able to provide lunches, will you be able to provide a packed lunch?
6. Can you confirm that you will be checking your role as a key worker is essential and that you will happily provide this information if asked by school?

As soon as we possibly can, we will contact you to confirm the provision we can offer going forward. If we have any queries we will get in touch, especially if we need to clarify anything related to your job falling into one of the categories.

School will be open for children deemed 'vulnerable' – please see excerpt below for details. School staff will be calling the parents of these children directly today to ask whether or not families wish to take up this offer for their children.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by Social Care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

We fully understand the worry and frustration that all of this is causing to you as parents and carers. At Hutton Cranswick C P School we will follow the Government guidelines to support the greater cause and will provide the best care we can for those children where it is **essential** for them to be in school to allow their families to carry out essential roles that will help keep our country going.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support at this challenging time.

Kind regards

Mrs Burkinshaw

Headteacher

