



19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I'm sure that you will now be aware of the Government's decision to close schools until further notice for the vast majority of children.

It has also been announced that to allow key workers to carry out their vital work and to support more vulnerable children, schools will remain open to a limited number of children.

At present, key workers are defined as:

- NHS staff
- Police
- Fire service
- Teachers
- Social workers
- Care workers
- Delivery drivers.

It is expected that Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary, will shortly issue further clarification.

We are fully aware of who our vulnerable children are but we don't always know parents' occupations. Therefore, we would be very grateful if you could contact your child's school to let them know if you are a 'key worker' and are likely to require support from the school. Please do this before 10 am Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - tomorrow.

Of course, you may have already made arrangements to care for your child – it's natural that in this uncertain time, you will want to keep your family close. The Government has, however, stated that these arrangements should not involve people over 70 or those with underlying health issues.



Registered Office: Pilton Bluecoat Academy, Abbey Road, Barnstaple, EX31 1JU T: 01271 345952

Mrs R Nicholas – Executive Headteacher

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 8110847



If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we can support families through a scheme that the government has just announced.

I understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and not just for the short term. Thank you in advance for your understanding in this. It is the kindness and support that we give to each other that will help us get through these unprecedented times.

Take good care of one another,

*Rhian Nicholas*

Rhian Nicholas