



Mrs E. Sanderson  
Headteacher  
Mr J. Wheelwright  
Deputy Headteacher

Athersley South Primary School  
Wakefield Road  
Barnsley  
S71 3TP

Tel: 01226 284223  
Fax: (01226) 733039

[www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk](http://www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk)

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you are aware on Wednesday evening the government announced that all schools in the UK must close from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March and they have asked that parents keep their children at home, **wherever possible**. They have asked schools to remain open for those children who **absolutely need to attend**, as the fewer people making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, then the **lower the risk** that the virus can spread to vulnerable individuals.

Schools will, wherever possible, remain open to those classed as vulnerable and to those where both parents or a sole parent work as 'key workers' as defined by the Government. The government have now published the key worker list that tells us which pupils are eligible to be considered for a place from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Schools will need to take account of the latest government scientific advice on the proportion of pupils that it is advisable to maintain direct support for in order to maintain efforts to delay the spread of the virus. This has been set by the government as a **maximum of 20% of the school population** and the number of staff available to work. This requires schools to prioritise which pupils receive an offer, according to greatest need.

Please follow the link for a list of those classified by the government as key workers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

**We ask that if your child/children need the support of the school, that you please contact us by phone by 12.30pm today so plans can be made. We will endeavour to inform you whether we can offer your child a place in school by the end of the day either by phone or letter.**

There is also talk of maintaining provision for some children over the Easter break. This is uncharted territory. As such, planning to support an Easter provision will be dealt with next week. Beyond Easter we anticipate that there will be continual need for childcare, given the gravity of the national crisis. The school will communicate the plans once we have further information.

We will also be providing information about how pupils who are on free school meals can continue to receive this service.

I hope you will recognise the difficult times schools and teachers are facing. We are called on to provide emergency childcare at a time when the first thought of many teachers will be to remain with their families and children. It is essential that we all pull together to support our emergency services and key workers and you can do this by minimising your call on our limited reserves. Therefore, children who do not fall into the groups listed above should remain at home with appropriate care. There may also be partners who work from home or other non-elderly family members who could provide childcare support. I must stress schools are closed for public health reasons and this childcare is an **emergency measure only**. Please support our staff and each other by respecting the need for key workers to have access to appropriate childcare at this time.

Thank you for all your continued support at this difficult time

Yours Sincerely

Mrs E Sanderson