



20/03/20

Dear parents/carers

As you are all aware, school is closed from next week for most children. We will be providing a childcare service for the children of key workers and for some vulnerable families. If you work in a critical sector, and you cannot keep your child safe at home, then you will be prioritised for education provision. The government have released the following information to help us to prioritise the families we will be able to offer this service to and are requesting that all families and schools follow these principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

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 education provision:

The following is a list of key workers: adults who work in health and social care, education and childcare, key public services, local and national government (includes only those involved in administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response), adults who are involved in food production and processing, public safety and national security, transport, utilities, communication and financial services

Please see link below for further information about 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>

From next week, we will also be offering out some support to families who have children with Education & Health Care plans and to children who are vulnerable. Children will be able to attend school for part of the day. We will discuss this with individual parents and will be contacting you today to explain how this will be structured.

If you feel you qualify for childcare from next week, please send an email to admin@springfield.hackney.sch.uk explaining your circumstances, what job you do and outlining what provision you would need – e.g. is it every day, mornings, afternoons, full day. We will then get back to you to discuss further. ***We will be doing everything we can to ensure that parents whose work is critical to the COVID -19 response can continue to work without having to worry about childcare.***

We will also be providing parents who are entitled to free school meals vouchers which will hopefully help a little at this difficult time. We will be in touch as soon as we have more information. Please do be reassured that we will do everything we can to ensure everyone who needs food, has food over the next few months and ask that you contact us at school immediately if you have worries about food.

Please keep an eye on our website for further information.

Thank you all for your incredible support at this very difficult time.



Fiona Judge

Headteacher

