



ASHCROFT INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Mildenhall, Tamworth, B79 8RU

‘Providing the best start in life for all children’

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Friday 20th March 2020

Good afternoon, everyone.

As you will now be aware the government has published its list of key workers who may be eligible for childcare from Monday 23rd March. There are still a number of questions that remain unanswered from the government which we are hoping will be clarified in the coming days.

Currently we are prioritising children where both parents are key workers or single parents are key workers. We have a number of issues that we have to balance in providing this care. We have a duty of care to the safety of our staff who will potentially be exposed to the virus by providing this care. They of course have their own concerns about theirs and their family's health. We have also had some guidance around ensuring social distancing and numbers remaining fairly low in school to ensure that we continue to try and support the national effort in slowing the spread of the virus.

It is important to note key lines in the government's guidance: "Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so."

We have asked parents to contact school by 12:30 today if they are key workers. We are making it clear that both parents must be key workers as the government advice is very much that this provision is only used if absolutely essential, therefore if there is another member of the household who is not a key worker then they can be expected to care for their children and this is the safest option for all.

It is worth noting that the government is asking schools to offer reduced provision, however it is not statutory and if schools are unable to staff adequately due to illness, self-isolation and social distancing then they may need to close.

Our opening hours will be our current school hours of 8:55am – 3pm. Lunch will not be provided unless parents are in receipt of eligible benefits (pupil premium). We are currently not planning to open during the Easter holidays but we will continue to review this.

HEADTEACHER: Mrs J Fellows
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Mrs E Lane

Dyslexia
friendly

sing up
Silver Award

We will be contacting parents by the end of the day to inform them of their place at our reduced provision.

We appreciate that this is a very difficult and frustrating time for all of you and we are committed to providing care for the key workers who are vital to the infrastructure of the country.

We are also very sad here at Ashcroft as we know that it may be a long time before we see some of our children and parents again. Thank you so much for the supportive messages we have received and your understanding of how we are balancing the care of others against our own safety. May I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best in the coming weeks and months. Look after yourselves and your loved ones and we will see you on the other side!

Mrs Fellows