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Dear Parents and Carers

School closed from Friday 20th March

As you will be aware, all schools have been instructed to close to almost all children after this week, until further notice.

In line with government guidance, we will be open to provide childcare for identified key workers' and vulnerable children as part of the country's ongoing response to Coronavirus.

Examples of these workers include **NHS staff, police and emergency services employees, prison officers, care home workers, social workers, food delivery drivers and teachers** who need to be able to go to work to support the country's fight during this difficult time. We are awaiting a full list of the jobs considered as key workers and will share this with you as soon as we can.

Vulnerable children include those who have a **social worker** and those with **Education, Health and Care Plans**.

Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Thank you to all those who responded to our email this morning asking for key workers to notify the office if they feel they are eligible for childcare within school. The information below is now our understanding of who will be eligible but we are still awaiting official confirmation.

Eligible households are:

- *when **BOTH** parents are classed as key workers*
- *a single parent if there is one parent with sole parenting responsibility who is a key worker*
- *households with a child with an EHCP and/or social worker who would still wish to access school care.*

We assume that parents who did not reply but are eligible will arrange childcare and do not need a place at school. Unfortunately, this criteria may now mean that some households are not eligible, despite having one key worker. I will be in contact tomorrow to confirm your child's attendance next week.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government is announcing.

We appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

We thank you for your continued support at this time of unprecedented challenge and would urge you to keep up to date with the latest advice and guidance available.

Look after yourselves

Yours sincerely

Rachel Hughes