

20th March 2020

Dear parent / carer

As you are aware the UK government has decided that in response to the COVID-19 crisis that all schools in England will close, except for certain groups of children, from today as a further measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus.

The government has stated the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. We are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children.

Please follow these key principles, from the government guidance;

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.

The Liverpool Local Authority are looking to provide 'Hub' provision at a range of educational and other settings across the city. However, the secondary element of this will only be available shortly. When we have more information regarding this provision we will communicate this as soon as possible. Further updates will also be available from <https://liverpool.gov.uk/>

To support our students until this new provision is available, Holly Lodge will continue to be open from Monday for all the following groups of students;

1. Children whose parents are classed as key workers – please use the link below to access the list of key worker roles.

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

If you believe that you are a key worker as defined by the government and you require this support next week, then can you please email hollylodge@hollylodge.liverpool.sch.uk with the following details:

- Your daughter's name
 - The sector you work in
 - The days you require support for your daughter
 - Your emergency contact details
2. Those classed as what the Secretary of State described as vulnerable children. These would be those who are young carers, have a social worker and those with EHCPs.

If we believe that your daughter falls into one of these categories, we will be contacting you to offer this support.

Please be aware the government has asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible as this is the safest possible course of action for them at this time, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

I hope you will recognise the difficult times schools and our staff now face. We are called on to provide emergency childcare at a time when many teachers' first thought will be to remain with their families and children. It is essential that we will all pull together to support our emergency services and key workers and you can do this by minimising your call on our limited resources. Therefore, children who do not fall into the groups listed above should remain at home with the appropriate care. I must stress schools are closed for public health reasons and the provision we are putting in place 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.

The School Day

The school day will be slightly amended during this period. The school will be open for breakfast from 9am and close at 2pm for all students attending, the Mill Lane entrance will be the only one used during this period. Please can I ask that parents and carers pick up promptly so staff can support their own families.

Students who do come into school will be expected to complete the same work as that provided for those who are at home, this will be completed in an ICT classroom with staff supervision. There will be breakfast and lunch provided for students who attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that ParentMail, our website and our Twitter accounts will be used as the official method of communication during the period of closure to ensure reliable and clear communication from the school.

Website: <http://www.hollylodge.liverpool.sch.uk/>

Twitter: @HollyLodgeLiver

Finally, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours faithfully



Mr A. Keen

**EXPECT
TO ACHIEVE**

