



5.1.21



Dear Parents and Carers



Following the Prime Minister's announcement at 8pm yesterday, Kirton Primary School and Nursery is closed. It is anticipated that the school will remain closed until half term. The only exception to this closure is for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. The school will reopen for these children tomorrow (Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January).



The expectation from the Government is that all parents will do everything in their power to ensure their children are not in school, regardless of the status of critical worker or vulnerable child. This is essential to slow down the transmission of the new variant of the virus. This keeps your child safe, your family safe, our staff safe and the wider community safe.



Mr Hancock, the Health Secretary, stated, 'When schools are open, that spreads the disease'.



Mr Johnson, the Prime Minister stated that schools 'act as vectors for transmission'.



Salient points of advice from the Government's guidance with regards to critical workers are:



- every child who can be cared for at home should be;
- there is no requirement for parents and carers of critical workers to send their children to school;
- if there is any other childcare option, your child should not be in school.



With regards to vulnerable children:



- your child's social worker will work with you to assess the best option for your child.



As teachers will be running Google classroom remotely from home, all teaching within school will be undertaken by teaching assistants under the direction of teachers.



If you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe in any other environment, please complete the return slip at the end of this letter by 1pm today.

We require this information by 1pm in order that we can safely assign classrooms and supervision for your child for tomorrow. Please do not bring your child to school if they have not received confirmation of a place.

Do not worry if you do not get this done in time for tomorrow. We will continue to take applications until we are able to reopen fully.

The critical worker list is:

### **Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

### **Key public services**

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

### **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

## **Public safety and national security**

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

## **Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

## **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

**If you, or any member of your household, is working from home, you do not fall into any of the categories above.**

We need to ensure that we have sufficient staffing in place to provide supervision for the children of critical workers and those vulnerable children who have no alternative childcare arrangements.

Before making your decision, we would reiterate the Government's advice that:

- Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.
- Parents should keep their children at home, wherever possible, and schools should remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

We ask that parents consider whether it is vital that child be offered supervision at school from tomorrow onwards. Do you have other options available to you?

If there are no other options available, and you consider yourself to be a critical worker, please complete the return slip below by 1pm today and forward to [enquiries@parliamentfederation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@parliamentfederation.co.uk) You will be required to supply a letter on headed paper from your employer, confirming your name, position and work responsibilities to confirm eligibility. **Even if you have previously supplied us with this evidence, we will require confirmation by 1pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January.**

We will endeavour to contact you as soon as possible to inform you whether your application for acceptance as critical worker has been accepted and whether we are able to offer your child a place.

Please be aware that we will not be able to supervise your child if they do not fall into the category of vulnerable child, child of a critical worker, have displayed coronavirus symptoms within the last 10 days, they are social-distancing due to underlying health issues or if they are member of a wider, self-isolating household.

We must also risk assess the demand on places against staff availability. This assessment will be under constant review. Should it be or become unsafe or unpractical to continue to provide a place at the School due to staff shortages, the School will be forced to close and the Local Authority is duty bound to provide transport for children to the nearest childcare hub.

These are unprecedented, challenging and troubling times for everyone and the situation is changing rapidly, but we respectfully request that all parents and carers show courtesy and respect towards all members of our dedicated staffing teams. Despite enormous pressure from the Unions, every member of staff reported to work yesterday because they wanted to do the best for the children. This Team ethos remains as strong as ever.

Kirton Primary School acknowledges the frustration that many of you will be feeling regarding such short notice; it is a frustration that is shared by us all. However, this is a time when we should be pulling together like never before.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Donley  
Executive Headteacher

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Please copy and paste this reply slip into an email (or supply the same information) and forward it as soon as possible to [enquiries@parliamentfederation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@parliamentfederation.co.uk) (by no later than 1pm today).

Please make the subject of the email **Critical Worker Application**.

We will get back to you as soon as possible to confirm whether or not we are able to offer childcare and to give details about the arrangements.

**Pupil name(s):**

**Year Group(s):**

Please only send your child into school when you need to. We appreciate some workers may have shifts that vary. Please state below for which **Critical Worker group** you are applying in (you may wish to include details):

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I require childcare for my child on the following:

	Morning Session (9-12)	Afternoon Session (12-3.20)
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		

Please delete as necessary:

- My child will be collected at the end of the session.
- My child will make their own way home at the end of the session.

If my child is not entitled to free school meals, I will provide a packed lunch.

Please delete as appropriate:

- I have attached a letter on headed paper from my employer, confirming my name, position and work responsibilities to confirm my eligibility as a critical worker.
- I am able to supply a letter on headed paper from my employer, confirming my name, position and work responsibilities to confirm my eligibility as a Critical Worker and will do so by 1pm on 5.1.21 at the latest. I understand that failure to produce this documentation will result in the loss of my child's place

I understand that my child's placement may be at another school and that transport will be arranged by the Local Authority if this is the case.