



Menston Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure

Following government guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) we will close our school from the end of the day today.

The government says that this closure is until further notice.

We understand the pressure that this will put on families. The health and wellbeing of children is our priority. We are working urgently with schools across the Bradford district to put as much support in place for pupils and parents as we can.

Each school will have their own individual arrangements for setting work for pupils during the closure and will be in contact with parents to inform them of these.

Not all schools will close. Bradford Council has identified some schools that will stay open to meet the needs of vulnerable children and the children of key workers. You need to know that Menston Primary School has been nominated by Bradford Council to be a 'childcare hub', so we will be expected to care for children from a range of schools across Bradford. This will increase the number of children in our school from the small number of children that we were expecting to care for from within our own community.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should**, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why **the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked some schools to remain open to act as childcare hubs only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

Some schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are **critical** to the Covid-19 response **and cannot be safely cared for at home.**

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with Education Health and Care Plans.

Parents whose work is **critical** to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. **Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key 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 childcare 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:

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 fall into the key-worker category and cannot keep your child safe at home, then we need to know the following information as a matter of urgency so that we can prepare for Monday.

Even if you have already done so, please email the school office at office@menstonprimary.co.uk with the following information before 12 noon today:

Your child/ren's name(s):

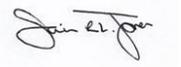
Your name(s):

Your job(s) within the key worker category:

The days which you need to send your child/ren to the childcare hub at Menston Primary School next week (only the days that your chil/ren cannot be cared for safely at home).

It is essential that we get this information as soon as possible, because we are now having to plan staffing structures and provision for a wider community of children than our own.

Thank you again for your continued support.



Mr I Jones