



The Grove Primary School
The Grove
Oakfield Lane
Consett
County Durham DH8 8AP
Head Teacher: Bernadette Atkinson



Email: thegrove@durhamlearning.net

Website: www.grove.durham.sch.uk

Telephone: 01207 502938

20th March 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been instructed to **close the school on Friday 20th March**. The school will only be open to children with a named social worker, children with an EHC plan or children where both parent/carers are a “key worker” as defined by the government. The list of occupations that qualify as key worker is below:

Key workers (whose children will need care as a priority during the Covid-19 outbreak):

Education and Childcare – including social workers

Key Public Services – justice service, religious staff and workers in key frontline services

Local and National Government – including administrative occupations

Food and necessary goods - 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, 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.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision, the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), 999 and 111 critical services staff, postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

For a full breakdown visit the school website and check the Coronavirus Update for today.

School will only be open on Monday 23rd March for those children where both parents meets the key worker criteria and they have **no other childcare** provision. The provision on offer will be purely childcare and not educational. Government guidance is clear **that parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible**, and are asking schools to





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remain open only for those children who **absolutely** need to attend. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

In addition, we will be offering free breakfast club provision for the next 2 weeks to these children and families so that key workers can maintain vital services for all of us. Breakfast club will open from 8.30am.

Current plans are that children would enter the building using the pupil entrance for breakfast at 8.30am. Those who are not attending breakfast, gates will be open between 9am to 9.15am. The day will end at 3pm; there will be no After School Club or Enrichment Clubs. Children can be collected from the playground as usual.

Please remember that children who have symptoms must not enter school, even if they are children of key workers.

To enable us to plan staffing requirements to meet the needs of this group of children, please could you notify us IMMEDIATELY if you meet the criteria and intend to take up this provision. We would ask that you to return your completed form by lunch time today. We will then be in touch with you to confirm arrangements. If you have already contacted us from yesterday's letter we will be in contact today to confirm arrangements.

As I'm sure you will appreciate, we need to ensure that provision is targeted at those families who are at the forefront of essential services in these challenging times and repeat again **that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

We also need to safeguard the health and wellbeing of school staff and their families wherever possible by limiting social contact as advised by the government and DfE.

As this is a rapidly changing situation should any changes to the provision occur, we will update you using the normal channels of communication. If the Government makes the decision to go into a full lockdown situation the school will be closed to everyone for that period. This information will be shared via the school Facebook page, text and school website.

Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Bernadette

