

23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for your support over the last few days. We note from the number of children in our schools, that families have followed government guidance to ensure that; **the provision is for those who identify as being critical to the response and the saving of lives during this crisis.**

The Government mantra is: -



Since Friday, many business have closed, sent staff home, changed work patterns and re-designated staff. Financial support has been put in place to ease the pressure. For some families, care at home should now become an option. We all need to work together, in schools this means only having places for essential child care for the frontline staff of the COVID 19 response programme.

We are asking all our staff who are not in a high-risk category, or who do not have vulnerable family members, to be part of this initiative. However, school staff are as vulnerable to this virus as anyone else and we therefore have to plan for staff self-isolation cycles. If we have insufficient staff to prove a safe environment, schools will close and families will be directed to the next nearest Trust school with a safe staffing structure. Please be advised a safe environment is one that can also be cleaned adequately each day and where lunch can be provided.

Most families have been supportive and understanding of the pressures on schools and it is in this spirit that I ask you to consider if your child care place is a necessity. Thank you to the many families that have responded making alternative arrangements. If on the reading of this letter, you reflect and are able to provide care at home or feel that your role is not as vital as that of NHS frontline staff, please cancel your child's/children's place by emailing [office@nestschool.org](mailto:office@nestschool.org).

We are planning the second phase of child care provision for after the Easter holidays. It is likely that the Trust will move to a hub structure, where care will be offered in one school within an area.

### **Information for those in school**

For pupils in school there will be clear social distancing protocol.

- All pupils will continue to follow healthy hygiene arrangements throughout the day.
- Any child who has a cough, appears to have a temperature or becomes unwell will be isolated and sent home.
- Classroom based activities and lunchtime; we will ensure pupils are sitting at an appropriate distance.
- Children will be allowed in the playground but will be reminded about appropriate contact.
- There will no breakfast or after school provision as staff are required for the core offer.
- We will be monitoring attendance at school and are required by the Department of Education to send a return each day which includes the number/name of children in school, Key Worker roles and the number of school staff available.

Thank you again for your support, together we can help to save lives.

Yours sincerely

Paula Farrow

CEO NEST

### **Latest Government information**

21 March Updates on Coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>