
4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you all managed to have a good break and I wish you all a very happy new year.

As you have no doubt been following in the news, positive cases of covid19 in Hertfordshire are rising. All secondary schools will be closed at the start of term. The current situation is that our school will open again to all pupils on Tuesday 5th January. However, you will have seen in the press that there are calls for all schools in Tier 4 areas to switch to remote learning for a short period so please have contingency plans in place as you may be advised at short notice that your child is to stay at home.

If this were to happen then our teachers will be working really hard to ensure that the home learning provision is of a very high standard. We will, however, be required to provide places in school for children of critical workers and any children deemed vulnerable. Any switch to home learning is likely to be for a short period of time and the in-school provision will follow the home learning that teachers are setting.

We asked you a few weeks ago to let us know if you are a key worker, if your situation has changed or if you have recently become a key worker, please let us know so that we can plan for any required critical worker in school provision accurately (for either now or in the coming months), please can you look at the critical worker list below to see if your employment falls into this. If, in the event of a switch to remote learning, your child would need and qualify for a place at the in school critical worker provision, please email into the office team on admin@yorkroad.herts.sch.uk

We ask that if we do move to home learning that you only bring your child in to school on the actual days that you are working and not if you are at home.

Should the situation remain the same, we look forward to welcoming all the children tomorrow and for our new children who start on Wednesday. We have been very successful in school so far with infection control and have had only had to close our school once in 10 months. We will continue to do all that we have been doing to keep your children safe and happy and as such all our systems and processes from last term will continue.

Every single one of us now has an increased responsibility to make sure that we are following the guidance around social distancing and not mixing with people outside of our bubbles. At York Road we are proud to be one bubble, all looking after each other.

Kind regards,

Diane Frainer

Headteacher

(see below for critical worker list)

Critical Worker List:

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

Health and social care
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
registered childcare
support and teaching staff
social workers
specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach
Key public services
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
journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting
Local and national government- This only includes a) or b)
a) those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
b) delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies
Food and other necessary goods
food production
food processing

food distribution
food sale and delivery
those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)
Public safety and national security
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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
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
those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass
Utilities, communication and financial services
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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
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
waste disposal sectors