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5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you all now know, we have had to make the decision to move our school to only being open for key worker children and those with complex SEND or that are vulnerable. I appreciate that the Prime Minister was somewhat ambiguous in his explanation around early years settings and there are meetings taking place this week with the Department for Education for clarity on that.

What does that mean for York Road? Yes, York Road is an early years setting, however it is also classed as a school, so we fall in to a grey area. However, the decision has been made for us purely because we have many staff that also have primary aged children. This means that they need to be at home with their children. We also have a high number of children with complex SEND that need a 1:1 and this also takes up more staff.

Many of you have emailed me last night and this morning asking me why we are not open to all and I hope that this explanation clarifies things for you. I am unable to answer each email individually. I am sorry if this is not the decision that you had hoped for, I can assure you I would much rather be running the school open and for everyone, but that decision has been taken out of my hands by the Virus and the Government. I also have 3 children at home, and I can truly empathise with the challenges that this brings.

For those of you who need Yorkies, a google survey has been sent out to you this morning, please complete it as soon as you can this morning so that we can calculate if we can afford to run Yorkies.

Yorkies is separate from the school and is a non-profit making Charity. Last April-July we had to close Yorkies and furlough the team- this cost us £10,000 and it is in a vulnerable position right now.

If you are a key worker, let us know so that we can plan for any required critical worker in school provision accurately, please can you look at the critical worker list below to see if your employment falls into this. Now that we are moving back 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](mailto:admin@yorkroad.herts.sch.uk)

**We ask if you are a key worker that you only bring your child in to school on the actual days that you are working and not if you are at home.**

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 Fraïner, Headteacher*

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**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.

<b>Health and social care</b>
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
<b>Education and childcare</b>
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
<b>Key public services</b>
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
<b>Local and national government-</b> 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
<b>Food and other necessary goods</b>
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)
<b>Public safety and national security</b>
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
<b>Transport</b>
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
<b>Utilities, communication and financial services</b>
staff needed for <b>essential</b> 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