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## Coronavirus Update

20.3.2020

To all Parents/Carers,

Before I give you the most recent update I just wanted to make reference to the two latest documents from the Government regarding 'Maintaining Educational Provision' and 'Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers'.

The emphasis of both of these documents, and the strict guidelines we are given throughout all of this, is that all measures should be taken to prevent the spread of the virus whilst ensuring children are safe and cared for. It is also very clear that the virus is more likely to be managed if we maximize the numbers of children who are safely looked after at home.

**Please bear this in mind when reading the rest of this update.**

Following the Government's latest release of information, we now have a slightly improved understanding of what could happen next with regards to Markeaton staying open.

### 1.1. What do we know so far?

- Nationally, schools are set to close today for the vast majority of pupils until further notice
- However, schools are being asked to stay open for: Children of Key Workers, Children with an EHCP (Education and Healthcare Plan), Children with social care involvement and children in Foster Care.
- Last night, the Government produced a list of what they consider to be Key Workers for example, NHS and Social Care Staff. This information is critical to how we move forward and finding out how many children may attend school next week. The full list can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

- If you are one of the key workers on the list, then you must be able to provide evidence from your employer to verify this.

### **1.2 Is there any other guidance around Key Workers?**

The advice from the Local Authority, specifically **Pauline Anderson** (Service Director – Learning & Skills) is that homes where one parent is NOT a key worker should not need to use childcare. As an educational setting trying to restrict the spread of the virus, we fully support this advice.

### **1.3 What has happened so far in school with regards to next week?**

- So far we have contacted parents/carers of children with EHCPs, children with social care involvement and children in foster care and we are in the process of finding out how many children, under these categories, will be attending next week.
- Monday will be closed to children. However, staff will be in school to define working practices to cater for this level of provision.

### **1.4 Next week**

If you meet the criteria written in red (1.2) and you would like your child to attend school next week, please complete the Key Worker's Application Form and return it to the school office via email only ([admin@markeaton.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@markeaton.derby.sch.uk)) by 10:00am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

School will be open on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at normal time for those who qualify (8:45am – 3:25pm).

Yours sincerely,

Mr I. Johnson  
Headteacher