

## Shirley Infant School

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**Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day**

## Shirley Junior School



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20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to ask for your help and support.

Schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a **limited** number of children. This means children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home can come to school.

As per the Government's guidance, it is important to emphasise that schools remain safe places for children, however the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

The Government has strongly urged '**If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**' We would really appreciate your support with this in order that we can have sufficient staffing to remain open safely for a sustained period of time for those parents and children that really need our service.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans. This does not mean you have to send your child to school if they have an EHCP. School will look very different for a time and we recognise that for some of our children with particular needs this could cause them anxiety.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. A list of who is considered a key worker is provided below. The Government have stated that where there is one key worker in the home you may send your children to school, however we would ask you to consider our earlier comments. We have emailed out a survey monkey for you to complete. Please can you complete this survey at your earliest convenience and **not** call in as it is the quickest way we can collate numbers.

We are attempting to ensure that our school can support the latest government guidance in supporting key workers and vulnerable children, however we are operating with limited resources and staffing. We would therefore appreciate your support in only sending your child to school if absolutely necessary.

Yours sincerely

Cate Gregory  
Headteacher, Shirley Infant

Annette Hixon  
Headteacher, Shirley Junior

