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Acting Head of School: Mrs M Vincent

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Dear Parent/carer

I hope you and your families are all well!

Following the publication of more guidance on 'key workers' we are sending this letter to ask you, to contact us if your role is covered by the following guidance and you believe you will need to send your child into school.

We are using guidance from:

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

Important information to consider:

The advice is that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children, however, the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Therefore we are asking our parents and carers to follow the following principles with us:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. Those that have been advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions should not be asked to provide child care at this time.
3. Parents and carers should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Those children and staff, who have an underlying health condition that makes them more vulnerable to the coronavirus, should not attend. The government advice that sets out the conditions that put individuals at risk can be found

here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Criteria:

If a child or parent meets the criteria below, then wherever possible, non-school uniform, school site provision in the form of fun varied activities will be available for them.

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to 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

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes 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, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms-length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

This includes 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 COVID-19 pandemic), 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

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes 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 COVID-19 response, as well as 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 and waste disposal sectors.

Next Steps and further information

1. If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.
2. If you are one of these key workers and believe that you will need to send your child into school, please email: stoke-st-michael@educ.somerset.gov.uk
3. Schools are being asked to look after children of these families so that they can undertake their important work. We will not be a position to run lessons. Instead, if able to open we will run activities that are a best fit for the students we receive. In addition, students will be able to access the online learning materials that we are publishing and would be supported by available staff members throughout the day.
4. If for any reason Stoke St Michael School cannot offer this provision, then St Aldhelm's Primary School in Doultong has kindly offered to have our children who fall into this category.

We will keep our parents and carers updated with our plans. We are thinking of you all at this time and appreciate your support.

Please also be reassured that we hope this to be a time of family and love that will bring memories of togetherness for years to come so please put mental well-being and happiness before home learning. We will be in touch next week to explain how and when we will be setting further home learning.

Best wishes to you all

Mel Vincent
Acting Head of School
Stoke St Michael Primary School and Little Roots