Friday 20th March 2020

**School Updates- Key Worker Information**

Dear Parent/Carers,

We are only expected to open as a childcare facility for **some**children **if we can do so** and if **absolutely necessary** over the next few weeks. Government guidance is also that parents who are defined as key workers should only send their children to school if they do not have a safe alternative. This means that if another family member is working from home the children **should** be at home with them and **not in school**. The request from Government is that where we can ‘**we continue to facilitate those children who are vulnerable or whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response who would otherwise have no option but to stay at home to ensure safe supervision of their children’.** Please be aware we can only provide this provision if there is capacity amongst staff to manage this. This is about a different provision; it will be about **care**, not **education**; all expectations regarding educational provision have been lifted by the government. This will also be a flexible provision so that we have children in as little as needed. There would be an expectation that when parents who are key workers are not working they have their children at home with them.

If you believe you meet the criteria and would like us to consider your case then please complete the form below:

<https://forms.gle/YfqHXCtu3JiPaeS66>

**PLEASE DO NOT COMPLETE THE FORM ABOVE IF YOU ARE UNLIKELY TO MEET THE CRITERIA.**

Once the form is sent back we will consider your case. We are aiming to contact all parents on completed forms today or tomorrow. It is important that you complete this form **as soon as possible please. In some cases we may need proof from your employer to show that you are a key worker and provide your working hours.**

We appreciate the disruption that this will cause you.  However, everyone has a role to play in stopping the spread of the Coronavirus. The Government has stressed that schools and early years settings (referred to simply as ‘schools’ throughout the rest of this briefing) have a key role to play, having kept them open as normal for as long as was practicably possible.

There will be staff ensuring that the schools remain safe and functional. Free school meals will be provided to all eligible pupils and information about how to access this will follow.

As time passes and the situation evolves, Warwickshire will be scaling down the number of schools open. As time goes on it will be likely that many children who are eligible to attend will be at a different location than their usual school.

Staff who will initially be present in schools will be scaled back to working remotely. Where fit, staff will be expected to be supporting the school’s distance learning approach. **Staff who are not supervising at the schools that remain open will be teaching online so that children continue to receive the best education possible.**

For all parents, we would also ask that you ensure that you follow government guidance on hygiene as stringently as possible.

We understand how this will affect the children and you, as families, and while we empathise, we have to be firm in the application of government guidelines if we are to keep your children safe and help stop the spread of Coronoavirus.  Your essential co-operation is appreciated.

Once your case has been approved you will receive an email to give more details to what will happen. Next week the Key Worker provision for our children will still be at Our Lady’s.

Thank you again for your help, support and kind words in these unprecedented times.

Best wishes and stay well,

Mrs Batson