

4.1.2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I'm sure you will be aware through the media that there has been a lot of uncertainty regarding the provision of on-site education in primary, secondary and special schools nationally due to the increased transmissibility of the new strain of Covid-19.

This evening, the government has stated that it is their expectation that the country enters a new period of national lockdown, which will include the closure of schools for a second time. All learning will move online except for children of key workers and vulnerable children.

Due to the late hour of informing schools and the public, **the school will be closed tomorrow to all pupils except for those children of critical workers who can not provide childcare at home and invited vulnerable children. Every child who can stay at home should stay at home** – we have a responsibility to protect our staff and school community and so will ask for our parents' support in this matter.

For tomorrow school will **only be open for those children of critical workers whose parents need to attend work and have no alternative childcare**. For these children school will be open from 8.45 am to 3pm. Entrance and exit will be via the main pedestrian gate on Brickhill Road. Please keep your child at home tomorrow if you possibly can.

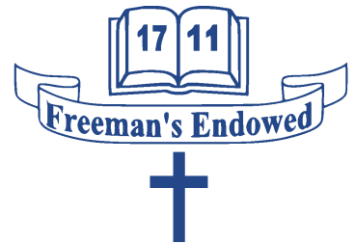
If you absolutely need to send your child into school tomorrow because you are a critical worker and have no alternative childcare, please email me at [fiona.hull@freemansendowed.org](mailto:fiona.hull@freemansendowed.org) this evening or by 8.00am tomorrow at the latest. I will then compile a register of children who will be attending school tomorrow.

From Wednesday, **full provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children will recommence** (please see below). The school will be contacting parents tomorrow to make enquiries about critical worker provision in the same way as the previous lockdown for all pupils. As you will appreciate, the organisation of this provision will take some time.

We will staff appropriately the provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children. This is clearly not designed to be a general childcare service but aimed specifically and only for children of critical key workers, who do not have an adult who lives with them who can care for them during school hours. Parents classed as key workers are those whose work is **critical** to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and includes those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors including:

- Education and childcare settings
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Processing, distribution and sales of food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Utilities, communication and financial services
- EU transition response





Further information about critical worker and vulnerable children 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>

This provision must only be used if **absolutely necessary**. Provision will be limited to the times when critical workers are at work and so we will be requesting that you provide us with details of your employment and work hours. We will need to continue mitigating measures during this provision. A form will be sent out tomorrow and we would ask that you return the form as soon as is possible so that we can plan our critical worker and vulnerable children provision for Wednesday onwards.

In light of the above, remote learning will take place with immediate effect for children affected by this closure. Teachers will upload learning resources via Google Classroom. Due to the late hour of the announcement, tomorrow may have limited resources but full online learning will commence on Wednesday, including live learning.

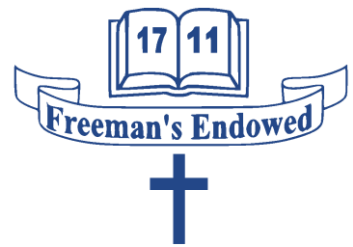
Please be assured that the safety of the whole school community is paramount.

Thank you for your continued patience and support during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Mrs F Hull





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