

Guidance for families for school closure period

This document summarises information on the Government website –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the Government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing.

Advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

That is why the Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely** need to attend.

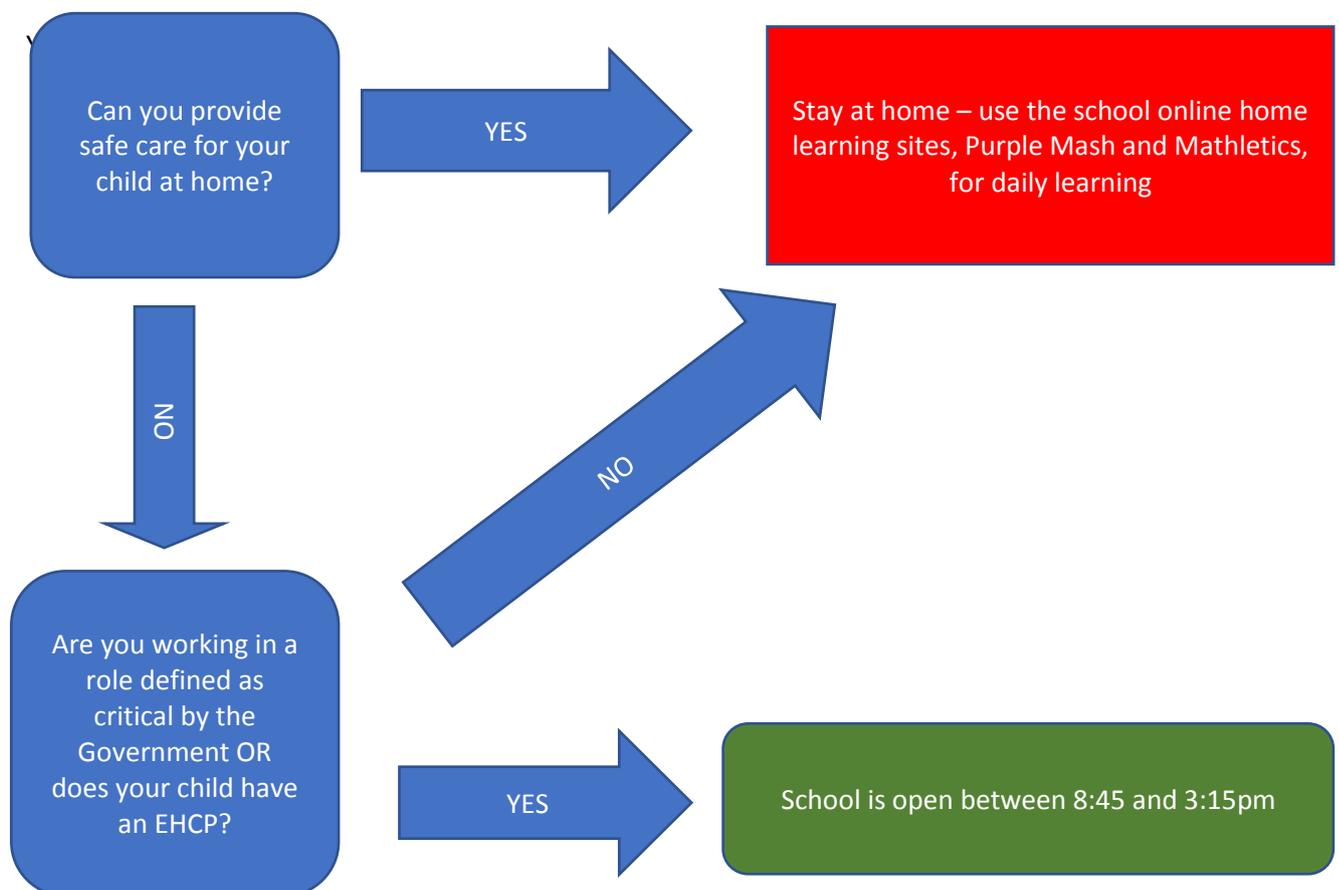
Remember the Government's aim in instructing schools to close is to **minimise** any social interaction to reduce the spread of Coronavirus.

You should only consider sending your child to school IF

- 1) You cannot provide safe care for them at home **AND**
- 2) You fall into the CRITICAL worker groups listed **OR**
- 3) Your child has an Education, health care plan (EHCP)

Any children in school will be supervised -and wherever possible follow the remote learning offered by the school. They will NOT be receiving regular lessons.

EVEN if you are a key worker or parent of a vulnerable child you must consider:



At this stage we cannot guarantee and food being provided on site therefore a packed lunch must be provided.

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

Ensure that you've read the full guidance if you have any questions – for example, remember point 1.8 – even if you're a critical worker or your child has an EHCP there is no requirement to come to school. This is our school joining in a national effort to support those children of critical workers at this time IF that help is required.

You'll understand that we need to plan carefully for school being open – IF you are a key worker AND you cannot provide safe care for your child, you need to inform school as soon as possible. I'm grateful to those of you who already have, despite the uncertainty yesterday.

It must be emphasised that as the school has a part to play in minimising social interaction that the offer at school is supervision – it is NOT a full timetabled school day. A skeleton staff will be in school – most of our teachers, teaching assistants and office staff will be working from their home in line with government advice. Staff who are in school will work on a rota through the week if necessary.

Thank you for your continued support in these unprecedented times,

Elizabeth Rye
Head Teacher
20th March 2020