

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the communication sent out last night, we now have a definitive list of Keyworkers from the DFE.

**In the first instance, the message from the Government is that, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, all parents are to keep their children at home in order to reduce the spread of the virus.**

Schools are being asked to provide **EMERGENCY CHILDCARE** for a limited number of children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are **CRITICAL to the Covid-19 response** and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This is **not the normal nursery service** and parents should not use this service for continuity of coming, because they enjoy coming or because parents are concerned they will be having a long break from nursery.

Parents **need to consider all options** to keep their child at home, including situations where;

- one parent is working from home
- one parent is self-employed
- one parent is in a non-critical role
- alternative family members who are not in the stringent social distancing category of over 70 years

Parents 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.

**Whatever we manage to provide, may not be staffed by Wingate Nursery School staff and at present we are not sure if the childcare will even be located in our nursery building or in another school close by. These are discussions all schools are having with each other and the Local Authority.**

**PLEASE FOLLOW THESE STEPS;**

1. If you think that you fall within the critical categories on the Government's Keyworker list, you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.
2. Consider ALL options to keep your child at home.
3. If you have NO alternative arrangements for childcare, THEN contact us to discuss what may be met within the Local Authority.

I understand this is a challenging time for everyone and we must all work together.

Kind Regards

Becky Wood  
Headteacher