



# SEVENOAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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Head Teacher: Mrs C Malone*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, even though Christmas had an unusual feel this year, I do hope that you had some joy with your children, in whatever form that took.

I know that I am writing to you earlier than expected, but you may or may not be aware that the government has announced this evening, that we will now remain closed until **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**, pending review. This applied to all Primary Schools that remain in a Tier 4 high risk location, and unfortunately, we find ourselves in that very location, here in Sevenoaks.

Therefore, I write to you with heavy heart, to say that we will be implementing home learning for your children from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, as this commences the start of Term 3 for us at Sevenoaks Primary School. You will receive further details of this provision on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 in preparation for the start of Term and I am confident that the systems we have developed, are the best in the circumstances.

I wanted to write to you this evening when I received this update, so that you have obtained this initial information as quickly as possible and we too can gather the information that we need.

As we did previously, where absolutely necessary, we will be providing the children of critical workers and those who are deemed vulnerable with a place in school during this time. I must stress that this is only for those people who have no other option because there is no-one at home, as we are running with limited staff and strict groups within the building for safety reasons.

If you feel that you will meet the criteria for a critical worker or your child is identified as vulnerable, as per the government list below, please e-mail [manager@sevenoaks.kent.sch.uk](mailto:manager@sevenoaks.kent.sch.uk) with your child's name, year group and your reason for requesting a place by **12pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021**, so that we can set this up in time for



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the beginning of Term. A member of the school team will also be in touch to confirm your place in due course.

## **Vulnerable Children and Young People**

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including Children's Social Care Services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from Children's Social Care Services
  - adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion

## **Critical Workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response including those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

### **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:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers



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- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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
- 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 coronavirus (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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
- 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



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## Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call center staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

I know that these are very unsettling times for people and that everyone's personal challenges and circumstances are different. If you have any concerns or need to speak to anyone, please do contact us through the usual channels, as we are here to support you through this difficult time.

Likewise, I know how supportive you will be as a community towards each other and our school and I thank you in advance for your kindness

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Malone  
**Head Teacher**



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