



Cherry Tree CP School

Green Fold School

The Orchards Nursery School

at

**The Orchards Federation**

**Executive Head Teacher: Mr Andrew Feeley**

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Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will be aware from the recent Government announcement, all schools will be closed for the majority of pupils from the end of school on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**.

The Orchards Federation of Schools will be open on Monday 23rd March only for vulnerable pupils and pupils of parents in the key worker groups below, however if your child is already in self-isolation they should remain at home until the end of the recommended period (minimum 14 days)

**When school opens on Monday, we will only be opening the Orchards Upper Site. The Orchards Lower Site and the Saplings Site will remain closed to all staff and children.**

The most recent scientific 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.

It is important to underline that schools remain safe places for children but, the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Below is a clear statement from Government that all pupils who can remain at home should do so, this is particularly important for those pupils in the high risk group.

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends or family members with underlying conditions
4. 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.
5. Residential special schools, boarding school and special settings continue to care for pupils **where possible**.

In helping us to plan for the number of children who will fall into the categories, we need your assistance with the **key worker** element of the provision – see attached list. (List is also available on the following link)

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

You will be asked to provide evidence of your role as a key worker when you first drop your child off at school. Children should enter school via the hall door instead of the usual entrance.

Please report any new absence in the usual way, making school aware if your child has any symptoms of COVID-19.

Please be aware that if at any time, school are unable to open the school due to high numbers staff absence and **therefore unable to safely supervise the pupil's school may need to be closed**. In this case we will provide as much notice of this as possible. We will review the situation daily.

We are grateful for your continued support as we navigate through times which I am sure you will agree, are unprecedented in terms of complexity.

Yours sincerely,

*A Feeley*

Mr A Feeley

Executive Head Teacher - The Orchards Federation