



WHERE LEARNING TAKES FLIGHT

**Robin Way, Chelmsford, Essex. CM2 8AU.  
Headteacher: Mrs Maxine Bradford BA(Ed) Hons NPQH**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### School Closure Update

Dear Parents/Carers

Please see the following updates as a result of the most recent government guidelines:

'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 education settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society'

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:

- 1) Children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home (See page 3 for eligibility criteria)
- 2) Vulnerable children which includes children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on the child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with EHCP's.

We are supporting the government drive to reduce contact and so suppress transmission of the virus, and we cannot offer provision for children not in the groups described above. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

If your child falls into either of the categories above and you are unable to make alternative childcare arrangements then you can request a place by emailing [Parents@mildmay-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:Parents@mildmay-inf.essex.sch.uk) **by 12 noon today**. Places are limited and priority will be given where both parents are key workers. Please remember that 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 who have underlying conditions.

Please ensure that a request for provision includes the follows:

- 1) Name and class of your child
- 2) The criteria your child qualifies for access to the provision (Refer explicitly to the categories and where relevant give names of employers). If you are a qualifying sole parent, or both parents are critical workers please make that clear.
- 3) Which dates your child will be attending between Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (we can offer flexible care – please opt for as few days as you possibly can)

Once information has been checked, if staffing and wider provision can be assured we will send an offer of a place. **Do not send your child to school unless you receive this offer.**

Please be aware that our ability to offer any service may be subject to significant change owing to:

- **Further government instruction**
- **Bridge Academy Trust and/or Local authority strategy decisions**
- **Appropriate levels of staffing (including First Aid and Safeguarding support)**

For those children who are eligible to access provision in school, parents should be aware that we will maintain routines where we can and children will be engaged in a range of activities, but this will likely be a modified curriculum. There will be no clubs, or extra-curricular activity or Breakfast Club.

Can I gently remind you that parents are asked to 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.

The uncertainty of the current situation is difficult for all to manage, but we will endeavour to keep you fully updated through our email and text messaging services.

We understand that some children may be unsettled during this time but they have shown amazing resilience and their behaviour has been impeccable. We are looking into ways in which we can establish some real-time contact between teachers and children/parents and I will update you on this. In the meantime we all have a duty to follow the strict government guidelines.

For our children who are working at home, work will be sent to you later today. The information the teachers have produced in such a short space of time is fantastic.

I would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to individually email, call or speak to us offering your support and thanks. Your words and kindness have been appreciated over the last week.

To all the children of families who are not returning next week please do take care of yourselves. We will miss you here and will be keeping you in mind. I cannot wait until our amazing Mildmay community is fully back in action.

Sending you the very best wishes,



Mrs Bradford and the Mildmay Team



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[www.mildmayinfants.co.uk](http://www.mildmayinfants.co.uk)



**If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.**

**1) 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.

**2) Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and school staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

**3) 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, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

**4) Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies.

**5) 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).

**6) 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 COVID-19 pandemic), 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.

**7) Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

**8) 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 COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.