

Heaton Park Primary and Nursery School

Cuckoo Lane
Whitefield
Manchester
M45 6TE

T: 0161 773 9554

E: heatonpark@bury.gov.uk



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Government's guidance released last night, please see below their direction:

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.

*Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a **limited number of children** - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.*

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 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.*

Following this guidance, **I would strongly urge that you carefully consider** whether school is your last resort, as we need to limit the number of children coming into contact with each other to stop the spread of the virus. If school is the only option you **must contact school office immediately, so we can make appropriate arrangements.** Our school will be operating a skeleton staff for the foreseeable future and therefore your child may not be cared for by their usual teacher or be in their usual classroom.

Please continue to check the Government and school website for the latest updates.

Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.

Mr Lord