



Inspiring Educational Excellence for Everyone

ARDENforest
C of E Multi Academy Trust

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CEO: Mr Adam Walsh
CFO: Mrs Louise Green

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the announcement this evening by the Prime Minister, all schools in England will be closed from 5th January to all children except children of critical workers, vulnerable children and those with EHCPs (education, health care plans). Due to the extremely short notice we have been given, the school will remain closed tomorrow to ALL children and will reopen to those who are eligible on Wednesday, 6th January.

In the letter sent this morning there was a link to a Google form asking parents and carers who are critical workers to notify the school if they require their child or children to attend school in the event of school closures. If you qualify as a critical worker, require your child to attend school and have not yet completed the form, please follow the link below as soon as is possible and no later than 10.30am Tuesday 5th January. The deadline has been changed due to the no-notice closure of schools and we require tomorrow to plan for Wednesday. Guidance on critical worker status can be found below this letter.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjF44OdnY0Gq7lyluJYASLIJ5JMyRkLEcyFBhLVTWJbyHRQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

From Wednesday, all staff will be in school supporting the delivery of the remote curriculum which will be via Teams. Each class teacher will be sending out a timetable of the learning for each day and scheduling a daily live session with each class to address any issues and to discuss the learning. They will be delivering the same learning to the critical worker children who will be working on the remote learning platforms in their usual classrooms. More information on this will follow tomorrow.

Wraparound Care services will need to be disbanded until we are fully open again as, regrettably, at this stage we are not able to offer before or afterschool care.

This change in government policy is sudden and will undoubtedly cause great stress and anxiety to many of us. Please know that all the staff are committed to supporting the children's learning both in school and remotely and we will work quickly to adjust to the rapidly changing circumstances.

Although the school will be closed tomorrow, your child's teacher will provide you with more details for remote learning, starting from Wednesday. Parents and carers of children who will be able to attend school from Wednesday will also be notified with full details tomorrow. Thank you, once again for your continued support and understanding.

Kind regards

Adam Walsh
CEO & Executive Headteacher



Critical Worker Definition

[Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and EU transition response include 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
- 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, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), 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 and EU transition)

- 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

Transport and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

