



*Believe to Achieve*

Mrs Louise Wood BA  
Headteacher  
PGCE NPQH Hons

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID - 19) UPDATE 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – School Closure

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will have heard the recent announcement by Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education, that **all schools will close today, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, until further notice.**

As stated by the Government: 'the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID19 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.**

In light of this advice, parents/carers will be **notified when a reduced provision offer will be available for a limited number of children** – this means children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are **critical** to the Covid-19 response and **cannot be safely cared for at home.**

Some families will therefore receive an offer of a place to attend school during this time of wider closure. Whether you are a critical worker or not, **only families with an offer of a place should attend. Do not come to the school before a place has been offered and confirmed.**

As previously communicated, we had been awaiting official confirmation on the list of key workers; this list was published by the Cabinet Office late last night, and it states:

'Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.'

'Parents and carers whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. 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. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed in the link below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>



**Harbury Road Carshalton Surrey SM5 4LA**

Telephone 020 8643 4428  
[office@barrowhedges.com](mailto:office@barrowhedges.com)

**Pupil Premium Awards 2016  
Local Winner**

Primary schools with published KS2 results



In our previous letter we asked that parents email their child's school if they believed they were a key worker, specifying their child's name and class. Having received this further clarification from the DfE about critical workers, **we now ask that you complete and return the attached form to enable us to plan our provision.** We ask that you return the form to the school email address ([office@barrowhedges.com](mailto:office@barrowhedges.com)) **by 12.00 noon tomorrow, Saturday 21st March 2020**, at the latest. **We need to ascertain how many children cannot be safely cared for at home.** The school cannot guarantee a place, or even an offer of a place; if any offer of a place is made, it will only be based on what staff numbers can accommodate on grounds of health and safety for all.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IF YOU ARE ASKING THE SCHOOL TO CONSIDER PROVIDING CARE FOR YOUR CHILD AFTER TODAY:**

Make sure that you have confirmation of your current employment in a **Critical Worker** role that you can show us – this could be in the form of your employment identity badge, police warrant card or letter of confirmation on headed paper signed by your employer. If we offer to provide care for your child, we will need to see this to verify that you are in a **Critical Worker** role. We will verify your claim with your employer where necessary.

The forms will be reviewed by school leaders and parents will receive a confirmation email if their child is to be offered school based provision from Monday 23rd March onwards.

Depending on demand, we may not be able to accept all pupils of parents making a request on Monday 23rd March and you must not bring your child to school if you have not received a confirmation email from us.

Please do not phone the school or come to the school office regarding this matter whilst we are trying to plan for any reduced provision.

More information for parents and carers on closure of educational settings can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm\\_source=3af9bd53-8b24-49d0-92be-34d607ef773a&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediateand-carers?utm\\_source=3af9bd53-8b24-49d0-92be-34d607ef773a&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm_source=3af9bd53-8b24-49d0-92be-34d607ef773a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediateand-carers?utm_source=3af9bd53-8b24-49d0-92be-34d607ef773a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

Thank you very much for your support in these challenging times. Together with other Sutton schools, we are doing what we can to support our local community, given these unprecedented circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise Wood**

Headteacher

**Sharon Roberts**

Interim CEO