



# GERRANS CP SCHOOL

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**Headteacher: Julie Elvy**

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20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **School Provision for children of Key Workers**

I have today received further Government advice regarding how schools can support the country, and what we all need to do to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Government has now also provided the country with clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing.

In response to the announcement that schools would remain open for key workers, we are now in process of planning our approach from 23 March 2020.

Firstly, if children can stay safely at home, they should, as this will limit the chance of the virus spreading. This 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.

We are therefore being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and children who are vulnerable who 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 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.

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 school 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.





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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.

Key Workers are those people working in:

- Health & Social Care
- Education & Childcare
- Key Public Services
- Local & National Government
- Food & Other Necessary Goods
- Public Safety & National Security
- Transports
- Utilities

In order for us to plan appropriate staffing, catering and support, **if you are a key worker and you require a school place**, please fill out the attached form:

Once this information is collated, everyone who has completed the form and qualifies will be contacted directly to explain the procedures for opening from Tuesday 24th March. Gerrans School will be closed on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in order for us to collate this information and plan effectively and sustainably for the weeks and months ahead.

To provide this provision we will be working with our other MAT schools, this means all children across Gerrans, Tregony and Roseland School, who are entitled to this provision, will be supervised at The Roseland School by staff from across the MAT. Parents will need to make their own transport arrangements.

Please take note of the key message that is, if children can stay safely at home they should. These are extraordinary times and it is very clear that our community will need to pull together and find new ways to support each other. Safeguarding the welfare and education of our learners is our priority.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for your support and understanding during the recent weeks. Also to congratulate our children on their behaviour, kindness and good humour during this unsettling period.

Yours sincerely

Julie Elvy  
Headteacher





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