



Leavening Community Primary School, Back Lane, Leavening, Malton, YO17 9SW  
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Tel 01653 658313

Dear Parents

Further to my earlier communications regarding COVID-19 you will now be aware that school will close from the end of today to all pupils subject to the following.

We are awaiting further information from the Department of Education to be filtered through to us and direction from the Local Authority but I appreciate the need for everyone to make urgent arrangements as best they can. It is clear this is not a situation that will resolve itself in weeks and at best may result in disruption for a number of months but what that means day to day for everyone is very much unknown at this point in time. Be in no doubt that all staff are acutely aware of the effect this uncertainty, our families have the same issues and concerns. We will though, all adapt in time by working together and the advice remains that schools are a safe place for children to attend subject to what follows.

The policy in force as of Monday 23rd March 2020 until further notice is therefore:

1. All children to remain at home;
2. If a parent responsible for the child is a "critical worker" then, if it is at all possible and safe, the child should still be at home;
3. However, 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 should it be required;
4. 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;
5. 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;
6. Critical workers are only those in the categories and meeting the criteria shown at the link below;
7. If a parent thinks they fall within the critical categories of critical worker listed at the link **below they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. You must speak to your employer about this, the school is not in a position to judge and it is for the employer to decide.**
8. **Please email Mrs Kemp at admin@leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk to confirm whether you fall into the above referenced criteria and you require your child/ren to attend school from next week asap.**
9. We will provide the education provision we are directed to provide to those who meet the above criteria but given the fast-changing nature of the situation and obligations to our staff, children, parents, and the wider community the school may still close at short notice. If the school is required to close we will provide you with all the notice we can. We are aware that the local authority is also making longer term contingency plans for education provision which we assume could include any number of alternative arrangements such as using different staff, schools, opening hours etc so that these temporary arrangements can have the necessary certainty for everyone involved.  
Please be aware this policy will likely change and or be added to at short notice in the future.

I will give you further information as I have it and how it applies to you and your child personally but the above represents what we know this morning. We appreciate it leaves you, as us, with many unanswered questions but we hope these will be answered in the coming days or weeks. Please bear with us, take on board the above, and above all stay safe.

Nobody is unaffected by this but we will all work together to progress your child's education which remains and will remain our primary objective. The staffs' and my thoughts are with you all.

Yours sincerely

Sian Mitchell

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