



HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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Friday 20th March 2020

Child Care for Key Workers Only

Are you a key worker?

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

Are you a key worker who needs child care?

The first key principle from the government guidelines:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

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.

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school is opening on Monday to provide child care for key workers and pupils with particular needs. We urgently need to know if you require essential child care. We know some key workers or parents of children with additional needs will not require this care but it is an important option that we would like to provide if child care is essential.

Yesterday, we sent out a questionnaire and already have over 300 responses from families - thank-you. We have asked all our parents to complete the questionnaire so we have an understanding of the number of key workers in our school. We know that not all our parents will have had an opportunity to respond, particularly key workers doing an amazing job in our hospitals and others working hard to maintain our transport network and food supplies but we ask that you do it as soon as possible and no later than Saturday 21st March, at 12 noon, when we will make a final check on pupil numbers.

We appreciate that at this time there is still confusion over the definition of key worker but we ask that you complete it with the knowledge you have now. We know that information will be given in good faith and if there is any confusion we can discuss at a later stage. This information will enable us to prepare for next week based on approximate numbers.

Unfortunately we are not able to provide child care for all our families. This is to significantly lower the numbers in school (children and staff) so that we minimise the spreading of the virus. We are also aware that some of our staff are already following Government guidance to self-isolate so we need to prioritise the children of key workers as not all our staff will be able to attend work. Staff self-isolating but not ill will be working at home.

Child care for key workers will be provided from 8.50 am to 3.20 pm. If you completed the questionnaire and requested child care then you should receive an email confirming your child's attendance at school. This may be sent over the week-end if you filled in the form on Friday afternoon/Saturday morning. Children attending school on Monday should follow the usual school routines when arriving at school. Any changes to routines will be communicated to parents.

Our catering company, 'The Pantry' will provide school meals for children requiring child care provision. These meals will be *free* for all pupils. It would make it easier for us to manage if pupils had these meals rather than bringing in lunch boxes but we will leave the final decision to parents.

The Breakfast Club and 4.30 Club will also remain open. Please follow the normal procedures for booking that can be found on the school website.

Parents who need child care after 4.30 pm should speak to our after school club provider, 'Special Treasures' as we understand they are still operating. Again, information regarding this club is available on the school website.

If for any reason you need last minute child care but have not registered through the questionnaire and you are a key worker then please speak to one of our reception staff on Monday morning who will be happy to try and help you.

I do hope this provision supports our families who have key workers. Thank-you for all the work that you do in providing these services to our community and beyond. Your work in difficult situations is appreciated by us all and this gives us an opportunity to say thank-you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Bowen-Breslin".

Ann Bowen-Breslin
Headteacher

