

Tameside Metropolitan Borough
St Anne's Primary School



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Dear Parent /Carer

Important information regarding pupil attendance during school closure

Firstly, thank you for the very supportive approach that you have taken during these exceptionally challenging times. We all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus; that is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear:

IF CHILDREN CAN NOW STAY SAFELY AT HOME, THEY SHOULD, TO LIMIT THE CHANCE OF THE VIRUS SPREADING.

Special opening from Monday 23 March for the children of key workers and those entitled to specialist support will be from **8.50am to 3.15pm**. **Parents can pick children up between 3pm and 3:15pm in an attempt to stagger the number of parents and enable social distancing.** Children arriving at school displaying signs of COVID-19, or who are generally unwell, will not be able to access the provision as this poses a risk to other children and staff. If any symptoms develop during the school day, we will be contacting parents to come and collect their child.

Please be mindful that if your child has Asthma, they are considered to be in a high risk category and they should not be in school, despite provision being available. As we are running school on a skeleton staff, it is not feasible that we can cater for high risk medical needs.

Key workers

The government published a list of those parent/carers who are entitled to send their child to school. The link below provides specific details.



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

We are grateful to all of these key workers who are looking after us all and keeping our essential services going. It is critical to note, however, that this provision should only be taken up if there are **no other alternatives**. **The government has asked parents/carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for children who absolutely need to attend:**

There is a lot of confusion about this. It is NOT compulsory for key workers' children or children with EHCPs to attend. It is an EMERGENCY childcare provision for children who cannot be left home safely and there is no alternative adequate care. The whole point of the school closure is to reduce the risk of spreading the virus; therefore schools are open for the minimum number of absolutely essential students, so we can deploy the minimum number of staff and therefore expose the minimum number of children, staff and their families to this extreme risk. These are exceptional circumstances that need drastic action. Unless we work collectively to slow the spread -then it is likely that the NHS will be overwhelmed.

If your child is attending school this week, they do not need to wear school uniform. Please come to the back gate as usual with your child. It is important that parents/carers DO NOT enter school so we can continue to keep the environment as safe as possible. All children are being asked to bring a packed lunch and a snack for morning break.

If you need to send your child into school, we ask that you email the admin account with at least 24 hours notice. This ensures we have adequate numbers of staff to meet legal ratios each day. If you are able to give us more notice that would be appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Kirsty Rimmer
Headteacher