

# Hawthorn Community Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and the many positive messages that you have sent regarding the exceptionally challenging situation we are facing regarding the move back into lockdown and the restrictions this imposes on those children who are eligible to attend school.

During the period of national lockdown, schools will only be open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to attend. Children with at least one parent or carer who is listed as a critical worker are eligible for a school place. It is not necessary for both parents to be critical workers, but priority will be given to those families where both parents are critical workers.

## **Vulnerable children and young people include those who:**

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance.

## **Critical workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other critical sectors outlined in the following sections.

### **• Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to:

- doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers;
- the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector;
- those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### **• Education and childcare**

This includes:

- Childcare;
- support and teaching staff;
- social workers;
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach.

- **Critical public services**

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system;
- religious staff, charities and workers delivering critical frontline services;
- those responsible for the management of the deceased;
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

- **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition;
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

- **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food:

- Production;
- Processing;
- Distribution;
- sale and delivery;
- as well as those essential to the provision of other critical goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

- **Public safety and national security**

This includes:

- Police and support staff;
- Ministry of Defence civilians;
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of critical defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition);
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff);
- National Crime Agency staff;
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

- **Transport and border**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

- **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure);
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage);
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response;
- critical staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services);
- postal services and delivery;
- payments providers;
- waste disposal sectors.

In order for us to make the necessary arrangements in school it is important that if you require a school place for your child during lockdown (because you are a critical worker or you feel that your child is vulnerable) that you contact the school today to request a place, using the form that can be accessed through this link [Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers](#).

You will be asked to provide simple evidence of critical worker status. This may be your work ID badge, pay slip or a letter from your employer. Please note that if you provided us with this evidence during the last lockdown you do not need to re-submit this, however we would ask that you complete the form requesting a place again, so that we have an accurate picture of the number of spaces required.

In order to keep all members of our school community safe, we would ask that parents only use the critical worker provision when their work shift pattern makes this necessary – it is safer for your child to remain at home with you if you are not at work. We will be asking all critical worker parents to complete an online form each week to identify the days that they are working and will need to send their child into school. Please note that the children who are in school will be supervised by some of our teaching assistants to complete the **same tasks** that those children who are working from home will be undertaking. Our teaching staff will not be teaching in school as they will be organising and delivering the remote learning provision.

Once we have established how many children will be accessing the critical worker provision we will further update with arrangements about how this will operate.

The Online learning survey that was sent out during the last academic year showed that the vast majority of children are able to access learning on-line and your child's teacher will be making contact with them through the Class Dojo today to explain how this will operate. In order to ensure that your child does not fall behind with their learning during the lockdown, it is vital that they engage with the learning that is being set. Please note that teachers will be taking a register each day to keep a record of those children who are accessing the work, and contact will be made to support those who have not engaged. If you have any difficulties accessing this learning through the Class Dojo, please contact the school and we will try to make arrangements for your child to access learning in another way.

I am sure that you can appreciate that it has been very difficult to respond to the government's call for schools to close at such short notice, and I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding. We will update you with further information as it becomes available, so please keep a check on your e-mails from school. If your child is allocated a space in our critical worker provision you will be contacted with further details of timings etc. Please do not send your child into school unless a place has been confirmed.

In the event that demand for places in our critical worker provision exceeds the space available we will be operating the tiering system identified overleaf to allocate available spaces. We appreciate that it may be very difficult for you to keep your child at home if you are working from home, but in order to keep the whole of our school community as safe as possible, we would encourage you to only use the critical worker provision if it is completely necessary.

Please note that if you have not completed the on-line form requesting a place by **3pm today**, we will be unable to accept your child into school tomorrow.

Many thanks.

Julie Clubley

Headteacher

## Priority will be given to families with both carers who are critical workers.

Where places are available this will then be extended to apply to families with 1 carer as critical worker.

Tiering	Descriptor
Tier 1 – allocated a place first where available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS frontline clinical staff or administrators (e.g. NHS 911 etc.) working directly with Coronavirus patients;</li> <li>• First responders (i.e. paramedics or those who support them)</li> <li>• Police officers and some civilian police staff (e.g. dispatchers)</li> <li>• Firefighters;</li> <li>• Those in NHS support services needed to keep hospitals and clinics running – e.g. hospital porters, full time hospital cleaners etc. (please explain when you e-mail us)</li> <li>• Front line school Staff</li> </ul>
Tier 2 - will be allocated a place when all places are not used by Tier 1 parents (effectively first waiting list)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other frontline NHS workers (e.g. midwives, pathologists, CT scan operators, radiographers)</li> <li>• Local authority staff working in critical emergency planning roles;</li> <li>• Some Ministry of Defence personnel;</li> </ul>
Tier 3 – criticalworkers who may be needed if/when the crisis escalates (effectively second waiting list – clinical staff offered first)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those in other NHS/private care roles who will not be called upon to assist in coronavirus cases – e.g. care home staff, researchers, private pharmacists, OT, NHS administrators, other medical specialities etc.)</li> <li>• Health and social workers</li> <li>• Those involved with the supply chain for supermarkets and pharmacies for <b>essential</b> goods(i.e. supermarket delivery drivers and those in supporting logistics roles)</li> <li>• Those working in critical transport roles (train drivers, bus drivers)</li> <li>• Prison officers and some other prison staff or involved in judicial system;</li> <li>• Those armed forces personnel critical to the COVID 19 response</li> <li>• Those working in care homes or in meals on wheels</li> <li>• Community police officers</li> </ul>
Tier 4 – If spaces are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those involved in oil, gas, electricity and water including sewerage</li> <li>• ICT or telecoms workers in critical roles (please explain in email)</li> <li>• Those employed in necessary government processes such as the payment of benefits</li> <li>• Probation service staff</li> <li>• Those involved in fuel or gas deliveries or maintenance</li> <li>• Associated staff in support roles for transport services</li> <li>• Workers responsible for the management of the deceased</li> <li>• Waste disposal sector workers</li> <li>• National crime agency staff</li> <li>• Border security</li> <li>• National security including overseas</li> <li>• Those running the justice system</li> <li>• Air, water and road workers</li> <li>• Freight transport workers</li> <li>• Education professionals non-school based</li> <li>• Civil nuclear and chemical workers</li> <li>• Network operation and field engineering workers</li> <li>• Payment providers</li> <li>• Charity workers supporting COVID 19 response</li> <li>• Religious staff</li> <li>• Journalists and broadcasters providing public service broadcasts</li> <li>• Government administrators</li> <li>• Essential financial services provision</li> <li>• Postal services and delivery workers</li> </ul>