

 Kenilworth Drive, Oadby, Leicestershire, LE2 5HS

Oadby Wigston and Leicestershire Schools Academy Trust

**OWLS Academy Trust**

Coronavirus: required closure – letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

Following on from my last update yesterday, I’m now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday – today, until further notice**. **Within this letter I have also provided the government’s response for Parents and Carers.**

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, ‘looked after’ children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care (EHC) plans](https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/extra-SEN-help).

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 educational provision 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.
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.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

**The link below will provide you with guidance from the government for parents and careers.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers#critical-workers>

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

Please could you email office@newlubbesthorpe.leics.sch.uk today to support our organisation with this matter, completing the box below. We will then contact parents who are Key Workers in readiness for Monday.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Childs Name | Parents Name | Job | Contact number if Changed | Email address if changed |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**4.2 If only one parent or carer is a critical worker, can I send my children in to school?**

**Children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can send their children to school if required. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:**

A full [list of critical workers and further information](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision) is available.

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

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We’ll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by Text, email or our school websites.

**What we’ll continue doing while your child is at home**

Your child’s learning is of course important to us, so we’ll continue to help your child to learn. This will be done via our school website, within the Pupil Zone section and via work Packs sent home. Next week’s work is already uploaded for you. Please use the link: <https://www.newlubbesthorpe.leics.sch.uk/pupil-zone>

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

**What we won’t be able to go ahead with**

* School trips
* Breakfast or after-school clubs
* Events
* Internal exams or tests

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it’s far from ideal, but we’ll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don’t hesitate to do so via office@newlubbesthorpe.leics.sch.uk.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Take care and please look after each other.

Yours sincerely

Peter Merry



CEO OWLS Trust.