

# DOTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Severn Drive, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 3JB  
Telephone 01952 386870



**Head Teacher: Becca Butler**

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The last 12 hours have been a bit of a whirlwind after Boris Johnson's announcement last night.

You may have seen that we updated our website at just after 9pm last night with instructions/guidance for school today. This information was also posted on Facebook.

In order to clarify this information regarding which children can still access school:

**Even if you meet the criteria, if you have any other option regarding childcare then you should not send your child to school. The lockdown is to limit transmission of the virus and the fewer children in the building, the less opportunity for the virus to spread.**

1. 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, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - care leavers
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

2. Children of critical workers who have no other childcare options available to them.

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 key sectors outlined in the following sections:



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## **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

## **Key public services**

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key 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 key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)



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## **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 key 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
- key 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

If you feel that you meet any of these criteria and you have no other childcare options then **you should come to school in the morning with your child, bringing evidence of where you work.** There is no form to complete this time.

If you work part time and therefore only need to bring your child to school on a part time basis then that is absolutely fine. We understand that there are people with many different working patterns such as one week on/one week off. We can support this by ensuring that there is a place in school on the days that you need it.

In order to plan for staffing and provision in school we really need to know how many children we will be catering for.



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Please let us know either by turning up at school with your child as instructed above, or emailing us with the details of what provision you require. **We need to know this information by the end of Thursday 7th January.**

I know that a number of you have emailed school to 'ask' for a place and the reply has said that 'someone will be in touch'. This is me being in touch with you now to say that if your job is on the list above then your child can come to school and should turn up as normal with you bringing your evidence with you. Unfortunately it is impossible at the moment to send a personal response to all requests as I'm sure you can imagine.

It is very hard to cater for 'maybe' families. There is no need to let us know if you 'might' need a place in the future. I understand that your circumstances may change throughout the coming weeks and if that is the case then please let us know as soon as possible and we will do what we can to help.

This has all happened at very short notice and I know that you are trying to figure out what life is going to look like for the next month or so in the same way that we are. We are doing our very best to communicate the information that you need. Please be patient with us. The website/Facebook is our easiest way to do this. Please keep up to date with this information.

I am sure that we can get through this difficult time and we will work with you however we are able in order to support our Dothill families.

Best wishes.

*Becca*

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