

27 March 2020

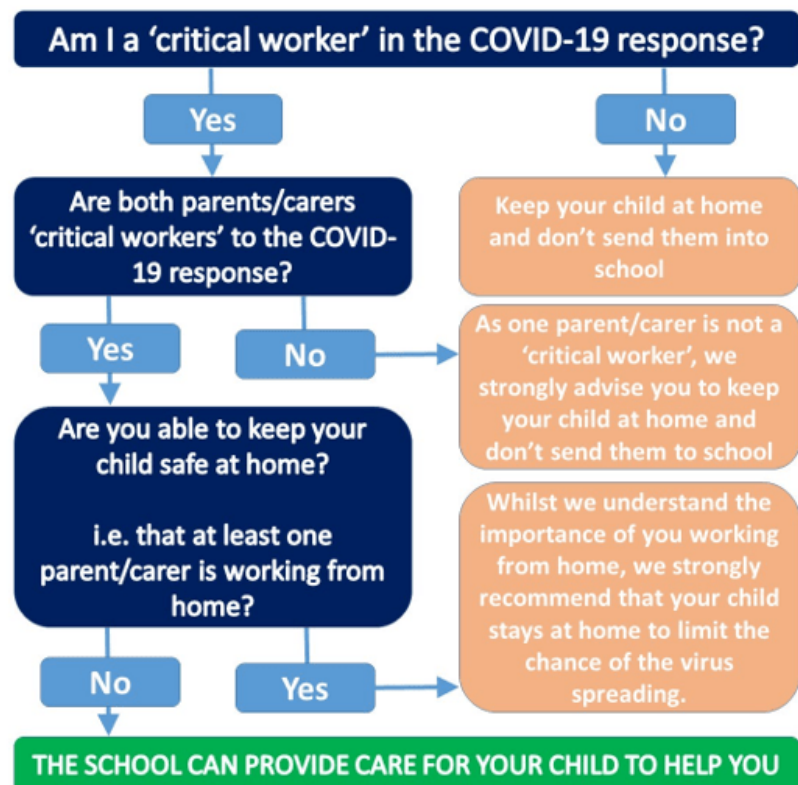
Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update

School Closure

As you are aware the Government announced that schools would close from Friday 20th March for the vast majority of students and has “asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend”. Schools were asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable (those children designated as a Child in Need, subject to Child Protection Order, Looked After Children, young carers, disabled children or children who have an Educational Health Plan) and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. The full information about which parents/carers this would apply to can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

however the flow chart to the right provides an ‘at a glance’ guide as to whether your child should still be attending school:



Croft Road,
Hurworth-on-Tees,
Darlington DL2 2JG
Tel: 01325 720424 / 721188
Fax: 01325 721788

E-mail: enquiries@hurworthschool.org.uk
Website: www.hurworthschool.org.uk
Chief Executive: Mr D Judson, B Ed, NPQH
Head of School: Miss N Peaker, B Sc (Hons), NPQH

The latest guidance for supporting vulnerable students can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people?utm_source=62ad7c10-fa33-4187-972d-85e99181e619&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

For those students who do need to attend school and the staff who are in the building supporting them, strict social distancing rules are being applied according to the guidelines which can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings?utm_source=380d162d-e45d-4e57-b5f6-95cfafce29a9&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Since schools closed further guidance has been issued regarding protecting the people in society who are most likely to be susceptible to Covid-19 and the most up to date information on the shielding process can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875126/Easy_read_guidance_on_shielding_March_2020.pdf

Please remember that **everyone** currently need to follow the government guidelines regarding social distancing:

How to stick together, by staying apart



Stay at home
no unnecessary journeys
or social contact



Only leave home for
essential shopping
or **medical needs**



Or **exercise once a day**



Or **travelling to work** if
absolutely necessary



Public gatherings of
more than two people are banned -
excluding people you live with



Police may be able to fine you
if you don't follow the rules

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As a school we want to be help all families that require our support; therefore once you have read the information in this letter and you would like your child to attend school can you please inform Nichola Peaker via her email on npr@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk or via **telephone/text on 01325 720424 (school hours)/07809211562 (out of school hours)**. In your message please state your child's name and year group. Please note that the usual school transport routes are being cancelled, so if this is your child's usual mode of transport for attending school then you will also need to inform us of this in your message so that alternative transport arrangements can be made. Please ensure that you have informed me by **no later than 3.30 pm on the previous day if your child is attending school the next day** e.g. Monday for a Tuesday, Tuesday for a Wednesday etc.

Please note that for safeguarding reasons we must be aware of the children that we are expecting to attend the school on a daily basis; therefore, if you have informed us that your child will be attending school we will treat their attendance as we would if they were attending school on a "normal school day", therefore they will be subject to a morning and afternoon registration and we will call you if your child is absent as we would on a "normal school day". We will be operating normal school rules during your child's time in school however they will not be expected to wear their school uniform. The school canteen is also being staffed during the period of closure so food will be available for your child however please be aware that this will be limited to cold food only.

Year 11 GCSE's and Vocational Qualifications

If your child is in Year 11 we are fully aware that this is a very unsettling time for them as they wait to hear how they will be awarded grades this summer for the subjects they have been studying. We do not have full details of this yet however the latest update from Ofqual (the exams regulator) has stated that we will have further information on this before the Easter holiday:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-update-on-2020-exams?utm_source=91e25046-3bdd-4097-ac38-f3c99fec0735&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Years 7 to 10 School Work

As outlined to you in our letter dated 20th March the school is providing work for students in Years 7 to 10 via Microsoft Teams which can be accessed via their school e-mail account. Whilst there have been some technical issues with this this week due to the high volume of demand from schools across the country, the vast majority of students have been able to access their work and have taken full advantage of the opportunity to contact their teachers for support. If your child



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experiencing technical difficulties with accessing their account then please contact enquires@hurworthschool.org.uk and we will endeavour to assist you where we can.

Please note sufficient work has been set for at least 3 weeks therefore your child should not have fully completed all of the tasks set yet. If they have a subject specific query then please contact the teacher concerned via their school email address.

If all else fails and your child is unable to access the work that has been set, topic overviews and pupil learning journeys can be found for all year groups and subjects under the Curriculum section of the website which will help you guide your child as to what to complete or revise. A full list of alternative websites to access resources was sent to you in our letter dated 20th March.

Swift Academies Easter Holiday Provision

Further to the letter dated 23rd March please remember that you if you would like your child to access The Rydal Academy during the Easter break (Monday 6th to Thursday 9th April and Tuesday 14th to Friday 17th April), can you please contact me using the contact details above by no later than **midday on Monday 30th March.**

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In addition to supporting families through our childcare provision, Hurworth has also been involved in the wider national effort to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Thanks to Mrs Dell, a collection of PPE within school (which included safety glasses, goggled and visors from the Science and D&T departments) has taken place and the equipment has now been donated to Darlington Memorial Hospital to assist the front line NHS staff who are working so tirelessly so support those who have contracted the virus.

How will the school communicate during closure periods?

We will provide updates via ParentMail, SIMS InTouch and on the school website as the situation changes. Updates will also be provided on our social media feeds via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - please follow @HurworthSchool on these platforms.

If you need to contact the school please email enquiries@hurworthschool.org.uk

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Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Miss N Peaker
Head of School

