

Headteacher: James Tibbles
Tel: 01227 830276
Email: office@bridge.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.bridge.kent.sch.uk

Bridge & Patrixbourne CEP School
Conyngam Lane
Bridge, Canterbury
Kent
CT4 5JX



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Close to midnight last night, the government announced details about the role that schools will play in the coming weeks.

As you know, schools are being asked to close their doors and Friday will be the final day of 'school' for the foreseeable future. The school will however, continue to provide child-care for (1) vulnerable children and (2) children of 'key workers'.

Information about these definitions is provided in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at the end of this letter.

We have been asked to do our best to ensure that the number of children in school is as low possible and therefore could I ask that where families of key workers are able to provide effective child care themselves they refrain from sending children to school. Obviously, we would not expect families to use 'vulnerable adults' such as elderly grandparents as childcare.

As a matter of urgency, please can I ask all parents who meet the criteria and require a school place from Monday to complete the linked Google Form by 1pm so that we can begin planning.

Having this information as soon as possible will mean that we can plan up until Easter in the first instance and get this information out to you.

[Click here to access the Google Form](#)

We will then contact all registered families to confirm that they are eligible and can attend from next week.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Tibbles'.

James Tibbles,
Headteacher



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I qualify as a 'Key Worker'?

A list of what the government have designated as 'Key Workers' is provided overleaf. If you fall within the critical categories you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

What is designated a 'Vulnerable Child'?

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. The school will be in touch with these families directly.

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 although if alternative arrangements can be made to minimize the number of children in school, they should be.

Will Breakfast & After-School Club still be running?

Normal hours of 8.45am to 3.15pm will continue with extended hours between 7.30am and 5.30pm for vulnerable children and those of key workers.

I am a critical worker or have a vulnerable child but I don't want to send my child in to school or childcare, do I have to?

Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. There is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

For vulnerable children, your child's social worker or we will work with you to assess the best option for your child.

Will the school be open over Easter holidays for childcare?

We are planning that the school will be open for children of Key Workers and will publish more information about this as soon as possible.

Key Workers

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 nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the 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, and 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 COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's 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).

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 COVID-19 pandemic), 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

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems 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 COVID-19 response, as well as 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 and waste disposal sectors.