



Ark John Archer Primary Academy

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Monday 4th January 2021

School Closure Information & Provision for Key Workers/Vulnerable Children

Dear Parents/Carers,

From Monday 4th January 2021 the Government has said that schools must close for the first 2 weeks of this half term. From Thursday 7th January 2021 we will open to support vulnerable students and those of certain key workers (see full details below).

The Government guidance emphasises that **parents should keep children at home wherever possible** and that the fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk of the virus spreading. We all need to work together to try and stem the spread of the virus.

There are two categories of children for whom the school will continue to provide care at this time if needed:

- 1. Children who are vulnerable:** Full details of which children are covered are set out below.
- 2. Children whose parents are key workers and who meet ALL the following conditions:**
 - The parent must be in a *critical* role based on government advice - full details of these *critical* roles are below; **and**
 - The parent must have had confirmation from their employer that their specific role is necessary for the continuation of essential public service; **and**
 - Their child cannot otherwise be cared for safely at home.

If your child/children fall into either of the above two categories, please respond to the text that will be sent out after this letter. Please respond Yes or No by **2:00 p.m. today (Monday 4th January 2021)**. We have attached a form along with this letter for your completion – please return this via email at admin@arkjohnarcher.org or phone in to the school office – otherwise we cannot guarantee a place for your child. If you are a key worker, you will be asked to confirm your role, that you are required by your employer and that your child cannot be cared for safely at home.

Free school meals

We will continue to make sure that families of pupils who qualify for Free School Meals have access to vouchers. If you feel you qualify for these vouchers due to situation changes at home, please do contact the school office.

Together As One

Food Vouchers

Please do get in contact with me if you would benefit from a Food Voucher. All enquiries will be dealt in the strictest of confidence but please know that we will do everything we can to support you during this time.

Learning at Home

Our other key aim is to ensure and maintain as much stability for the students' education as possible and we will outline the expectations over the next two days. Whilst it is not possible to fully replicate the educational experience at home, we have been working hard to put together a plan to continue to support your child's learning over the next two weeks. This is not an extended holiday for your child, and it is important that you encourage and engage with the learning process during this time.

If you have any questions about your child's learning at home, we have set up an email address for you to contact us through. This will be checked regularly by a member of the leadership team who will respond to you in a timely manner.

Contact e.support@arkjohnarcher.org

While schools are closed, we should all continue to follow health guidance.

Find out how to protect yourself

here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For further information on the government response, please

visit: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

If during this period, anyone in your household shows suspected symptoms of Covid-19, please do contact the school so we can ensure we provide the best possible support for you and your family.

We will continue to update you on any developments via email / text and with regular updates on the school website.

This is an unsettling and disruptive time for everyone, and we will work together as a school and local community to face the challenging times ahead. Thank you for your support and understanding during these exceptional circumstances. If we can do anything more to help your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best Wishes

Maira Cruddas

Maira Cruddas

Principal

Categories of children who can attend the Community Classroom from Thursday 7th January 2021

Vulnerable children and young people

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 plans 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

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 key 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
- **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 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 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