



# Fleet Primary School

Fleet Road Hampstead London NW3 2QT

Tel: 020 7485 2028

E-mail: [admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Don McGibbon



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## Coronavirus Update – 20<sup>th</sup> March

### School closure - Provision of care for the children of key workers

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Dear Parents,

As you know, the school is closing at the end of the day today and will not be open again for the foreseeable future. Since my letter yesterday, and after a prolonged wait which caused considerable uncertainty for both schools and parents, the government released its latest guidance at midnight last night. As I know you will appreciate, this has given schools very little time to assess how provision may be offered and what capacity can be made available.

The purpose of school closures is to drastically reduce the numbers of children and adults coming together to try and curb the spread of infection during this national crisis. **Therefore, even if your child is eligible to attend the reduced provision we will offer, I would urge all parents to only use this option if absolutely necessary i.e. there is no parent at home and no other option available. *If children can be cared for at home during this time, they should be.***

If we are to protect as many people as possible including your children, my staff and their families, it is vital that we allow as many people as possible to remain at home and practice 'social distancing.' The government have recognised this is the only way to start to control the spread of the virus.

"...the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend." (Taken from Gov.uk)

The government has provided a list of occupations that are considered to be 'Key Workers' which is copied at the end of this letter. Although initial reports suggested that both parents needed to come into this category, the guidance now states that if only one parent is a key worker, they can be considered for school provision. We will be offering a limited number of school places. These will be offered on a priority basis as follows:

1. Vulnerable pupils; those with a named social worker or an EHCP (we have contacted you if your child falls into this category)
2. Single parents who are key workers.
3. Pupils where BOTH parents are key workers.
4. Pupils where one parent is a key worker and one parent is not.

In the light of the new guidance, if you now believe your child may be eligible, please get in touch today via phone: 02074832028 or email [admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk); We will require you to fill in the form sent with this letter and return to us.

**If your child needs looking after next week, 23 to 27 March, please let us know by 12pm today.**

You will need to provide proof of employment and confirm what days and times your child will require care. If we are able to offer your child a place, please note the following:

- Provision will NOT be normal school; children will NOT be having any lessons or teaching
- Children will be supervised by a small team of staff and this will vary from day to day
- We can only offer care between 9am – 4pm
- Children enter and be collected via the main doors at the front of the school on Fleet Road

- We will still be able to offer school lunches to all children (alternatively children can bring packed lunch).
- Whilst we will endeavour to offer this provision for pupils, please note that a total school closure may still be necessary if I do not have sufficient staff available (due to sickness or self- isolation). Should this occur, the local authority may be able to help with sourcing a place at another setting. We will try to give 24 hours notice if we are not able to open.
- Due to staffing shortages we may not have a trained first aider on site and in case of illness or injury will need to call a parent to attend
- Please be aware that total school closures to ALL pupils cannot be ruled out if government directives change.

I realise that this is a very unsettling, upsetting time for many people and school closures are an added source of anxiety. This is the same for our school staff who are equally concerned about the safety of their own families. Please bear with us while we navigate this new way of working; we are doing our best to help the national effort at this time.

Your Sincerely



Don McGibbon  
Headteacher



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## Key Worker List

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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:

**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 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).

**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.

**If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.**