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20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all early years' settings will close to the majority of children with effect from the end of today. We will be following this guidance.

However early years settings are also being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children; children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Key Workers

We will continue to offer childcare for children of key workers who will help maintain frontline services in the fight against coronavirus.

For those key workers who require safe, supervised, wrap-around childcare, or a nursery place from Monday please let us know as soon as possible via the attached form so that we can plan for numbers.

The official list of key workers as published today by the DfE is on the attached page.

Note that we are also examining the possibility of offering extended out of hour's childcare provision into the evenings/weekends- to allow for keyworkers to maintain their duties.

If you have any queries then contact us by email through the enquiries@acornchildcarecentre.co.uk address and we will answer your query as soon as possible. **Do not attend nursery** if you are in any doubt.

Please follow the link below to find the latest government advice, for further information about coronavirus:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Thank you for your support & understanding during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely
Lorna Hodgett

From Little Acorns to Mighty Oaks
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CURRENT LIST OF KEY WORKERS AS DEFINED BY THE DFE – 19 MARCH 2020

Follow this hyperlink for the latest guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-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, contractors 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 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 (but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payment providers and waste disposal sectors.

18 March 2020