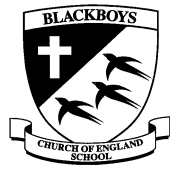


St Thomas à Becket Church of England Federation

Blackboys CE Primary School
School Lane
Blackboys
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5LL



Framfield CE Primary School
The Street
Framfield
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5NR

Headteacher: Mr G Sullivan

Headteacher: Mrs L Pestell

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Many thanks for all the supportive messages to school and for the positive way everyone is going about the current Covid-19 school closure plan.

We have now had confirmation from the Government regarding the opening of school for the children of key, critical workers. The overriding message is that if children can be at home, they should be and this will be safest for them and all within our community. Where possible, for example, home working or using partners who are not key, critical workers is recommended as a solution. However, if absolutely necessary, school will be open each school day between 8:55am and 3:15pm.

The Government's message and definition of key workers is as follows:

"Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

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."

It is now time to **confirm** with the School office whether you will definitely require childcare at school from Monday 23rd March 2020. Please email office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk OR 01825 890 423.

Further advice has been issued by the government via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers> , which parents may find useful.

It is with a heavy heart that we close today for the vast majority of our pupils. We will endeavour to keep in touch over the coming weeks and ask you to do the same. Blackboys School has a very strong community, who have rallied round brilliantly and who I know will support each other.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Sullivan
Headteacher