



23rd March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to you as the Covid-19 emergency quickly develops on an international, national and local level.

Due to the increased pace of social distancing announced by the Government, the school will be run by a skeleton staff. The health of our staff, the children and their families, is our primary concern. Therefore, we need to limit the amount of people in school as much as possible.

We currently have several members of teaching and support staff who, due to underlying health issues themselves or within their household, are not able to attend work for the foreseeable future. All of these members of staff continue to work at home whenever possible.

We will keep the school open for as long as we can with the staff we have left. However, if we do need to close the school we will contact you as soon as possible in order for you to make alternative arrangements.

The Government guidance on children attending school is very clear, it is **ONLY** for the children of **Key Workers**, who are **critical** in fighting the Coronavirus outbreak and those who are our **most** vulnerable students. **School places are the last resort, for those who absolutely need to attend**. Many parents who are working in these sectors may still be able to make provision to keep their children at home, if this is the case then you must do this. The Government states “**the safest place for your child is at home**”. A number of our parents who are Key Workers have made provision to keep their children at home and we would like to thank you for doing this.

If more of our staff become ill or need to self-isolate, the school may need to close. In this scenario, Barnstaple and South Molton schools are hoping to offer a number of hubs, both secondary and primary, for those pupils whose parents are Key Workers critical in helping the country during this phase of delaying and dealing with the outbreak.



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Mrs R Nicholas – Executive Headteacher

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 8110847



There is a meeting arranged for Wednesday this week to plan how these hubs could work in order to provide childcare for pupils should the need arise. I will feed back to you as soon as I can after the meeting to let you know what is being planned. This meeting will take place remotely to ensure adequate social distancing!

Please note; these hubs may not be able to provide a place in this school and may involve travelling to other schools in the area.

If you are regarded as a Key Worker please follow the link below, complete the form as soon as possible.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DevonKeyWorker/>

These forms will be returned to school by Devon County Council so an official list of Key Workers can be made. In the event of total school closures, this list can be forwarded to make provision for child care at a different school (If, and where provision still exists).

These are difficult times for us all and many of you will be at home rather than at work. Many people will be experiencing concerns about pay and finances. Please use the Gov.uk website to access information about financial support:

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

Once again we thank you for your support in these most difficult of times. We will continue to keep you informed of any new developments as quickly as we can.

Yours sincerely

Rhian Nicholas