



Armitage C.E. and All Saints Primary School

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Monday 11th January 21

General Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We now all find ourselves in another national lockdown, no doubt with some heightened anxieties and questions as to where things will head - both schools can and will support you wherever possible, whilst ensuring our respective school communities are kept safe. I appreciate how hard it has been over the last year.

As mentioned in my previous letter, during this period of national lockdown, schools will allow only vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers (key workers) to attend – this is a legal requirement. **The government updated the information regarding critical workers (key workers) last Friday stating that, 'Parents and Carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can'.** Limiting attendance does not suggest that schools have become significantly less safe for young people; instead, limiting attendance is about supporting the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities.

Our risk assessment has been reviewed across both schools and the good practices that have been developed since March 20 are continuing and as of January 21, strengthened, due to a further reduction of numbers attending school – the reviewed risk assessment will be sent to you this week.

The overarching principle that is being applied is to reduce the number of contacts between children and staff which is achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals. Wherever possible, you should stay at home and keep your children at home as this will also reduce the number of contacts.

We will be prioritising places for vulnerable pupils and children of Healthcare workers. I know some of you will have had conversations with staff with regards to accessing a place in school – we are still working through this to ensure that pupils that need a place are able to access one. I know many of you have mentioned a lack of technology in the home. We are also working on obtaining a number of additional laptops for both schools and we will be getting these out to families as soon as possible.

Provision of laptops will be prioritised initially to the following groups of pupils:

Laptops:

- Eligible for Free Schools Meals (FSM) in the last six years.
- Looked After Children (LAC) continuously for one day or more.

- Post LAC: because of an adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order.

We have also ordered a small number of dongles to support families with no or limited broadband.

Remote Learning:

It has been noted that a small number of pupils have **not** been accessing remote learning (where appropriate technology is available). I totally understand that there may be occasions where there are problems with the broadband connection within the home, however, children need to be continuing with their learning wherever possible. The quality of work prepared for remote teaching is of a high quality and will assist your child/ren in their learning and progress and should be completed wherever possible.

If your child is not accessing their learning the following will happen:

1. A phone call from the classteacher or a member of the support staff to ask why they are not accessing their learning – identifying any potential barriers – hopefully, this will set your child on the right track.
2. Communication with a member of the Family Team – possibly a home visit to support as appropriate
3. Communication from SMT

Zoom Session with the classteacher:

Armitage teachers will be starting a daily zoom session with their respective class this week. I must stress that this is not a teaching session per se, rather it is a time for pupils and teacher to discuss any issues/questions about their learning during the day. All Saints will be starting this later next week – further information to follow.

Just to recap on the Critical (Keyworker) category – the list of critical workers (keyworkers) is to be found below:

Criteria for a place in school –

One parent in a family will need to be a keyworker and evidence of role maybe required e.g. ID Badge and to reiterate, as per the updated information from the government, if you are able to stay at home and support your child/ren at home, you should do this.

Critical workers (Key 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 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 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

Other pupils eligible for a place at school:

- 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 plan 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 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

Lunch whilst at school:

Lunch will be provided, however, during the last lockdown a decision was made not to charge. Unfortunately, we will not be able to continue with this on this occasion. If you normally pay for lunches at school, this will be expected. If your child is on free school meals, this will continue – if you are not sure whether you are eligible for free school meals please check on the yellow banner on the Armitage website or contact the Family Team at either Armitage or All Saints.

Free School Meals:

During this period of national lockdown, we will be providing food vouchers for any pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals who are not attending school (unless there is a change in policy from the DfE).

The Link (Armitage):

The Link is open as normal. Please let us know in good time if you are having difficulties in paying for a pre-school place and if we can help, we will.

During this period of uncertainty, please look after each other and members of the community. There is a light at the end of a very long tunnel.

Again, if you would like any further information, please contact me on head@armitage.manchester.sch.uk or contact Sarah Proffitt on s.proffitt@armitage.manchester.sch.uk

Take care and look after yourselves and each other,



G. A. Stubbs

Headteacher