



# CHELLASTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

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**Head teacher – Mr Alex Smythe**

*Together we are **stepping to success**. Together we are **working to achieve our best***

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## **School Closure from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 – Guidance for parents (including the criteria for Key Sector Workers)**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sending this letter on Class Dojo at 9.30am. We are also sending it as a paper version to go home at the end of the day for those parents who have not accessed it on Class Dojo. If you are relying on the paper version, please be aware that we are communicating on Class Dojo throughout the day and that there is a significant delay to you getting the information if you are relying on paper copies. **Please all sign up to Class Dojo as soon as possible.**

The government has now released further information about who qualifies as a key sector worker. You can find the guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The list of Key sector workers whose children can come to school from Monday is:

<b>Health and social care</b>
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.
<b>Education and childcare</b>
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.
<b>Key public services</b>
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.
<b>Local and national government</b>
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.

<b>Food and other necessary goods</b>
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).
<b>Public safety and national security</b>
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.
<b>Transport</b>
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.
<b>Utilities, communication and financial services</b>
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.

So, having the list really helps. I'm now asking you to confirm if you feel you fall into any of the above groups and it is essential for you for your child to come to school for you to continue to be able to go to work. If you think you fall within the critical categories above you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Those people who contacted the school yesterday by email to [keyworker@cjs.derby.sch.uk](mailto:keyworker@cjs.derby.sch.uk) all fit the criteria and can send their child to school on Monday. **If you feel you fit any of the key worker criteria and have not yet contacted school, please send an email to [keyworker@cjs.derby.sch.uk](mailto:keyworker@cjs.derby.sch.uk) as soon as possible, detailing:**

- **Your name**
- **Your profession**
- **Child's name**
- **Child's class**

I will pick up these emails and reply to you to confirm your child fits the criteria

In conclusion, please remember the core purpose of the closure of schools; **“the aim is to keep the number of pupils coming into schools to a MINIMUM”** because we are being asked to practise social distancing to stop the spread of this deadly virus which could kill thousands of people in our country unless we can “turn the tide” (Boris Johnson, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March); the purpose is **not** to try to maximise the number of adults that can go to work.

The school's stance will ALWAYS be subject to change based upon the capacity of the school to continue to remain partially open.

I urge you, PLEASE DO NOT ask for your child to attend school if you know that, although your job is part of the key workers list, you are already working at home, you can work from home or you do not fit any of the key sector worker criteria. If you are working at home your child **should not** come to school and should be staying at home with you. Whilst we're sure you are thinking of the challenges that this will bring caring for your child and trying to maintain some working; we strongly believe this is not why schools have been asked to stay open. Should we find that any parent is working at home and sending their child to school during this unprecedented time we will ask that you do not bring your child to school for childcare.

Please also, do not ask for your child to come to school if you know you have an alternative, although as guidance suggests this should not be elderly grandparents who fall into the risk category. Attending school does increase the risk of the virus spreading and risk to us as a school staff.

We believe that we are open so that the NHS can save lives, so that people are safe and are protected by the emergency services, so that supermarkets can stay open, stocked, and we all can be fed, and so that the very core infrastructure of our country can stay working. Please do not use school if you do not need to go out to work.

We will assess the situation on Monday. If the numbers of pupils are accommodating seems beyond what we believe to be the clear principles of social distancing set out by the Government, we will be seeking advice as to how to prioritise school places.

**We will be writing to you again later today with details of what is expected of children attending school from Monday.**

Finally, if you know anyone who might struggle to read this letter, or to understand the contents fully, please be kind and help them to make the decision to contact the school on [keyworker@cjs.derby.sch.uk](mailto:keyworker@cjs.derby.sch.uk)

Yours faithfully



Mr Alex Smythe  
Head teacher