



The Dove Federation

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Disney



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Dear Parents/carers

This morning, as I am sure you will have already seen, we have received guidance on who is classified as a key worker and as a vulnerable child. Yesterday, I made contact with many of you regarding your occupations and whether you felt that you would be on this list. Thank you to everyone for providing this information. We have made the decision that the most effective way to coordinate providing care for children who are vulnerable or their parents are key workers is to operate out of one school site. Having carefully considered the layout of both schools, we have identified Caston as the site we will be opening up.

The Government within the guidance has clearly stated that:

“Schools are, therefore, 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.”

They have also said that where possible:

“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.”

With this in mind, we would like to ask those parents who are key workers or whose children are classified as vulnerable to think about whether they can safely provide care for their children at home as their first option and sending them to school as their last option.

Can I now ask that those parents who fall into these categories think about whether they can safely provide care for their children at home and if they cannot, which days or part days they would require care for. At this moment, we are anticipating that we open between the hours of 9am and 3:15pm. Presently, the school kitchen at Caston will be open and a school meal will be available. This will not necessarily be as advertised and will be dependent on the supplies that they have available.

If you are going to be needing care, please do not contact the school at the moment as either myself, Miss Cooper or Mr Halmshaw will be calling you shortly to find out what provision you need. If we didn't get to speak to you yesterday and you think you should be on the list, please email the school office to inform them of your profession and of your partner's profession.

If your child is at home and you are in receipt of free school meals, the plan at present is to provide a free school packed lunch, which could be picked up from the school kitchen that your child attends. The time to do this will be confirmed. If you do not live locally and cannot pick this up, please email the school office, who will look at alternative arrangements. Could I please request that this email is sent to the school office no later than 1pm today.

Can I please take this opportunity to stress to you the key principles that the Government has outlined for all families and ask that you read the following information carefully:

- 1. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.**
- 2. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.**

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10

Thank you for your patience during this difficult and challenging time. Please remember that we are available to contact via the school office email and will try and help you whether we can.

Kind regards

Mrs Disney

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