

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/carers

Coronavirus Critical Worker Update for parents/carers

The Government has announced this morning that parents are asked to keep their children at home wherever possible and asked schools to remain open **only** for those pupils who **absolutely need to attend**. This means that the school is not available as a childcare provision for parent/s who need to work from home. As much as we are committed to support the families of key workers, this measure has been put in place by the government to minimise the spread of Covid-19 and to protect us all.

The school will try to remain open from Monday 23rd March to provide a safe place for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response if they cannot be safely cared for at home. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**

It is stressed that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children but the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

If our school is unable to provide care at any point because it is unsafe to do so, we will work with neighbouring providers and within the academy to find an alternative setting for your child.

Please let us know by 8pm on Friday 20th March by emailing head@auriol.surrey.sch.uk with the 'subject' **KEY WORKERS and the attached form completed in full. Please note, this form needs to be completed regardless of whether you filled in the survey monkey yesterday.** You will be contacted by phone or email to confirm whether your child has a place.

Please follow this link for more details about critical workers;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

With regards to SATs, we expect a further update today and will then be able to provide greater clarity on how pupils will be awarded the examination results that they deserve.

The Government are currently working on a national voucher scheme to support parents of children who are eligible for free school meals. In the meantime, we are looking for an interim solution to support these families.

Please remember **-The key principle of the government guidelines is 'if it is at all possible for children to be at home then they should.'**

It has been an extremely turbulent and emotional time and I would like to thank everyone for their messages of support and encouragement during this period.

Yours sincerely
Mandy McDowall

