**COVID-19 update 11**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Following the guidance we received from WG we need to confirm which children are in desperate need of childcare from Monday 6th April 2020. Please read the following statement which has been taken from the guidance and respond to this email if you now qualify for childcare within the school environment.

Please include the following information and use the subject COVID-19 CHILDCARE

Child's name

Year group

Days required

Approximate start and finish times

Do they require a lunch

Your key role

**Please be aware that you are only to use school as a childcare option if you have exhausted all other childcare options as school is seen as an emergency childcare provision.**

The deadline for replying to this email is 12.00 p.m. on Thursday 2nd April.

Once school has received your information we shall contact you directly via email to confirm arrangements. If you have not received confirmation from school and qualify for childcare by 9.00a.m. Sunday 5th March please email (Kimail@hwbcymru.net) using the title **emergency childcare**.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear.  It is imperative that, as far as possible, we minimise social contact.  This means if children can stay safely in their home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

The smaller the numbers, the more we can lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable people across our communities.

Quite simply the fewer people having social contact, the more effective the overall impact of the current measures will be.

This means parents need to keep their children at home, wherever possible and schools and childcare and play settings should be open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

Further details about parents whose work is critical to the Covid-19 response are outlined below.  Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be and only where there is no safe alternative should provision be made in schools or other settings.

Teachers and practitioners in schools and childcare and play settings are playing a critical role in the response to the virus and we want to thank them for the continued work and contribution to their national effort.  They require the support of parents and carers and the understanding of the wider community to fulfil this role.

In summary, from Monday April 6th 2020:

* If it is at all possible for children to be at home, they should be
* If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is critical to the Covid-19 response, then provision in an educational or childcare setting should be available for them
* Parents should not reply anyone who has been advised to be following social distancing guidance, such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions, for childcare.
* Parents should do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in ways, which could contribute to spreading coronavirus.  Children should observe the same social distancing guidance as adults.
* Residential special schools and special settings should continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is critical to the Covid-19 response, or if you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, you should make arrangements for your child to be safely cared for at home. If there is no safe alternative, provision should be made in schools or other settings.

**Please remember only KEY WORKER children whose parents are both key workers or are single parent and a key worker qualify for emergency childcare.**

**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 distributers of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

**Education and childcare** – 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.

**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, and 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 Covid-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, 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 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.

**Transport** - 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.

**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 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.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

We recognise this will represent a challenge to families across Wales and for education settings and childcare settings. Like so many people in many sectors, teachers and practitioners in schools and childcare settings, have a crucial role in enabling Wales to respond to the virus outbreak. .

Please note that unfortunately you must have requested a place for your child at least 24 hours prior to the required time to allow them to enter school.

Please notify school on Kimail@hwbcymru.net if you no longer require any booked provision at least 24 hours prior as we have been advised to keep staffing levels to a minimum in line with social distancing guidelines.

We are aware that some parents may be on emergency call and will receive little notice.

R Jones

Headteacher