

# HITHERFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

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Dear Parent and Carers,

## RE: Urgent Update – Closure of all Primary Schools in London

I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon after my last letter but, as you are probably aware, the government has made a very late decision to close all schools in London including all primary schools in Lambeth.

I am therefore emailing you to update you on the plans at Hitherfield Primary School. As per my letter yesterday, the school will have an Inset Day on Monday 4th of January and another Inset Day on Tuesday 5th of January. These will be used in order to plan for the start of the virtual school and the Key Worker and Vulnerable Children school that will be held on site from Wednesday 6th of January 2021. The Inset Days will also be used to plan the new Class Bubble system, which is expected to be an operation when the school reopens.

If you are a Key Worker or your child is classed as Vulnerable (please see the definitions from the Department for Education at the bottom of this letter) then you will need to complete a request for childcare by clicking on this link: <https://forms.gle/8mDLNfvf25hj6b8M8>

If you meet the criteria for this childcare you will need to have completed this application by 10 am on Monday, 4th of January, so that we can work out how many staff will support on the site and how many staff will support the virtual school. Please complete one form per child.

We do not know at this stage when the school will fully reopen, so we have currently asked for applications up to and including Friday 15th of January.

For those children who are not part of the Key Worker or Vulnerable children attending the school site, the virtual school will start on Wednesday 6th of January. In response to feedback from parents and professionals the Department for Education now states that schools should provide three hours per day of learning opportunities through their virtual schools. We will provide this.

Like you, I am very saddened and extremely frustrated by this recent government change, especially the last-minute nature of it, and I sincerely hope that we can reopen the school to all children as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Ashley-Jones  
Executive Headteacher



Artsmark  
Gold Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



## Department of Education's Definition of Key Workers:

### Health and social care

This includes, but not limited to:

- doctors
- nurses
- midwives
- paramedics
- social workers
- care workers
- 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 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

## Department of Education's Definition of Vulnerable children:

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- 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.

