



20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Covid-19 update 20 March 2020

The Government published on 19 March 2020 revised guidance for educational settings and for parents and carers – please see the separate links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers#closures-of-schools-childcare-and-other-educational-settings>

The information supports the points I sought to clarify in my letter of 19 March 2020 – the following is an extract from the revised guidance for educational settings and this is followed by an extract from the revised guidance for parents and carers:

“As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).

And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, all childcare settings (including early years settings, childminders and providers of childcare for school-age children), 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.

Schools, and all childcare providers, 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.*”

“1.8 I am a critical worker or have a vulnerable child but I don't want to send my child in to school or childcare, do I have to?”

Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home.
Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

For vulnerable children, your child's social worker will work with you to assess the best option for your child."

The key point being made is that the reason for the closure of schools is to ensure that social distancing has the opportunity to be an effective strategy in "pushing down on the upward curve" of the spread of the virus. Therefore, as I stated in my letter of 19 March 2020:

1. Titus Salt School will close on Friday 20 March 2020 after all pupils have left as usual; it will remain closed in line with Government guidance to ensure there is a significant reduction in the potential spread of the virus. It is for this reason that we have been planning and preparing work that has been uploaded onto Teams – this ensures all pupils are able to continue working by having remote access with their teachers who will be working from home
2. Thank you to parents/carers who are "key workers" who have contacted us to explain their circumstances with regard the need to access school to support them in carrying out their role effectively. In support of parents who are identified as Key Workers and who have children who do not have an older sibling to look after them at home, TSS will provide a significantly reduced level of staffing to deliver an education for them in school during the hours of 9.00am to 3.00pm using the work that has been uploaded onto Teams
3. We are in receipt of an email from the school bus service in which they state they are operating as usual on Monday and will review the need for the service daily. They have advised that any changes will be published as updates on their website: www.wymetro/schools
4. I have met with our Catering Manager and our Business Operations Manager and we have put in place a strategy to support with food parcels and meals. If you are in receipt of Free School Meals and would like to receive a food parcel please contact us on enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk. We will keep this information confidential, but we will need you to provide us with your contact and the name of your child. We plan to either deliver the food parcels or set up an access point in a few different communities
5. As with all other guidance that has been produced, if anyone in the household has symptoms or develops symptoms then the procedure for self-isolation must be followed

We are all working through a situation that has no precedent and I wish to thank you for your continued support. As I wrote yesterday the cancellation of examinations saddens me as our pupils are not able to show a level of achievement, they have worked very hard for. However, we value their achievements and so should they; I have asked their teachers to record the standard of work they know our pupils have attained in their subjects so we can produce Titus Salt School Certificates in recognition of their achievements until such a time that the DfE and Ofqual clarify what they are to do with regard to accrediting pupils for their hard work over the last few years. We strongly believe that it is not about headlines and having certificates but it is about being able to progress to the next stage in life and I, on behalf of all members of staff, wish our pupils all the best with their futures – whatever path this takes.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel
Headteacher