



## Downside Primary School

Chaul End Lane, Luton,  
Bedfordshire LU4 8EZ

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**Headteacher:** Miss Karen Hooker

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parents,

I hope everyone is still well. As previously written, school sadly shuts its doors today to most children.

### **Which children can continue to come to Downside?**

The Government have made it very clear that the sole purpose of schools from Monday is to provide **childcare** not education for children. This is a very different role for schools.

The Government have asked that where possible, children stay at home, thus avoiding spreading the virus. This will not affect children's attendance!

Children can come in to school who fall in to the following categories:

- Children with EHC plans – we have contacted you
- Children with a Social worker – we have contacted you
- Children of key workers

The clarification of Key workers has been released and is on our website. In summary, it includes those employed in the following categories:

- Health and social care employees
- School and childcare staff
- Key public services – charity workers, religious staff, those delivering key frontline services etc
- Local and National government
- Food and necessary goods – those involved in the production, delivery and sale of food etc
- Public safety and national security
- Transport – those who keep the air, water, road , rail, delivery modes operating
- Utilities, communication and financial services

I think in summary it includes anyone who is providing a vital service to help the country at this challenging time.



If you fit in to one of these categories, then please either phone the school or email us at [dpsadmin@downside-primary.co.uk](mailto:dpsadmin@downside-primary.co.uk) by **2.00pm today**. We would like to get an idea of parents who may want to send their children in to school. Even if you and your children are currently in isolation, please let us know if you think you will be using this provision.

If you don't get to call in, don't worry we will be open – just drop your child here.

### **Arrangements for the children in school:**

#### **When are we open?**

- We will be open from 8.30am to 5pm.
- There will be no breakfast provision.
- Children can arrive / leave at any time – they do not need to stay at school until 5pm.

#### **How do I drop off / collect?**

Children should come through the main gate at the front of the school and enter via the school's main entrance.

#### **What about lunch?**

We will provide children with a school dinner, if needed or they can bring a packed lunch. This will be free of charge. Please note, we will not be able to follow the school menus and will be feeding the children food which we can source! In addition, this may change if our Kitchen staff become unwell.

#### **Does my child need to wear uniform?**

Children do not need to wear school uniform – ideally wear clothes they can exercise in!

#### **What will the children do?**

A mix of activities:

- Art / creative (so older clothes are preferable!)
- Exercise (if children are not wearing trainers and clothes that they could be exercised in, they should bring their PE kit)
- Some learning

.... and more!

Children **do not need to attend** if they fit into one of the categories; in fact the Government would prefer it if children weren't at school!

*All of these arrangements could change and childcare may have to be provided at a nearby school – if and when these arrangements have to be made, we will let you know.*

### **Arrangements for children not in school**

We recognise that we have some children who are on Free School Meals. I have written and emailed these parents with the arrangements.

### **How do I get my child's PE kit / medicines?**

If you **need / want** your child's PE kit / medicines, then this can be collected from the Office on the following days:

Monday – Reception /Year 1	Wednesday – Year 3	Friday – Year 5 / 6
Tuesday – Year 2	Thursday – Year 4	

Any urgent medicines can be collected any day between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Please keep the team safe and keep a safe distance from them and do not come in if you are self-isolating or ill. We are remaining open for the foreseeable future.

Year 6 parents – we will put anything from trays in to the lockers – for collection. There is no need to feel like you have to collect this. It will not be going anywhere!

Yours sincerely,

K Hooker