

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are already aware, as a nation, we all now need to do everything we can to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus and this is why schools are today closing for all statutory provision. The most recent scientific advice is very clear on how to limit the spread of Covid-19: **if children can stay safely at home they must to limit the chance of this serious virus spreading.**

The government has asked parents to keep children at home wherever possible and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend (for childcare).

Presteigne Primary School will be open **Monday and Tuesday** for the children of key workers only (childcare provision only), whilst Powys Local Authority decide on which schools will operate as centres on a longer term basis. We will update you as soon as we receive further information. **It is important to stress that the fewer children in schools the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.**

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below.

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

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- 2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.**
- 3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.**
- 4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.**
- 5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.**

School mini-buses will run as normal on Monday and Tuesday. This will allow Powys County Council to assess numbers and reduce the number of school centres needed to open.

Please note, breakfast will not be running for these two days.

I would appreciate if you are able to let us know if your child will be accessing Presteigne Primary School on Monday/Tuesday. Please email

office@presteigne.powys.sch.uk or telephone 01544 267422 and also state your key worker role so we can record this.

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times

Yours sincerely,



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

The list of key workers

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 distributors 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.