



# Alexander Hosea Primary School

*'Roots to grow, wings to fly'*

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Headteacher: Mrs D Williams



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, the school will be closed from this afternoon to help the Government's efforts to stop the spread of the virus and ensure that as many people (children and adults) as possible can socially distance themselves.

This has been a hugely challenging time for everyone in our community as the situation has been changing daily. We are grateful to parents for working with us as we do our very best to protect the children and staff in our community from the spread of this virus. Thank you for your kind words and positive feedback. We have taken our role in this very seriously indeed.

**At this critical stage of limiting the spread of Covid-19 it is imperative that children stay at home wherever possible.** Alexander Hosea Primary School is not in the position to supervise students unless parents' work is critical and students cannot be safely supervised.

I would like to highlight a few key messages:

1. As per Government guidelines, **social distancing is extremely important** to protect children and adults from this highly infectious virus.
2. Everyone should minimise social contact and stay at home if you can.
3. If you have to attend work because you are a key worker in a critical sector, you should only request one of the limited places for your child, in exceptional circumstances.
4. **Where you are only one key worker and your partner is not, there is an expectation that partners provide childcare.**

## **Key/Critical Workers in a critical sector**

### **A Critical worker is a person whose work is critical to the Covid-19 response**

In line with the Government plan, we will be able to provide some supervision for children, whose parents are critical to the emergency response plan. At Alexander Hosea, we will be able to provide supervision for a limited number of children for the next 2 weeks, as we will be operating on a skeleton staff. We are now full on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The list of these roles was published overnight yesterday – see link below.

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

Not all critical workers will need childcare and those who can work from home, so that their children can stay at home too, should do so.

### **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Even if you have already placed your child on the list at school, you should think very carefully about whether this is the right thing to do. Please contact the school office by email to cancel any places, so that we know who to expect. We will only be able to stay open to look after this small group of children who really need it whilst their parents are on the front line and if we have the staff who are well enough to provide the service.

**If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for provision.**

*“It is important to underline that schools, 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.”*

Our ability to stay open depends on staff's health and the health of their family members. Currently we have a number of members of staff off, due to self-isolation because they or a member of their family are showing symptoms.

We will be operating on a rotation of skeleton staff from the school to ensure safe working practices at this time. The provision will be for school hours (9-3:30) and children will be following work set by their class teacher. There will not be direct teaching. We will encourage children and staff to socially distance in the setting to avoid spreading the virus before symptoms are evident.

Should a child develop symptoms, they will be immediately isolated and the parents will need to collect them immediately. Likewise, staff will be sent home immediately if they become unwell and the session may need to be cancelled at that point if it is not possible to replace them that day.

We will text parents if we do not have enough staff capacity and we need to shut completely.

Arrangements for the small group

- Wear your own clothes – no school uniform.
- A sandwich will be provided at lunchtime.
- Arrive promptly at 8:50am
- Temperatures will be taken on entry and children will wash their hands.
- Children must not be brought in if they have a persistent cough or temperature.
- Collect promptly at 12:00 or 3:30pm.
- The children will spend the day working through the activities set by the teacher for home learning.

This is not a holiday club, it is a pandemic emergency response!

Once again thank you all for your continued support and patience while we move into our next stage.

Best regards,

Mrs Deb Williams