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Dear parents, carers and friends

Today has been a very strange one at Wroxall – as it must have been in schools up and down the country. As the closure of schools to all but a minority of children is indefinite, the children – particularly in Year 6 – have treated this as possibly their last day this year. I very much hope that the current epidemic will not be as long as we're planning for, but the Government's guidance to schools is very clear and is aimed at limiting the number of children attending as far as they possibly can in order to stop the spread of coronavirus and the associated disease, COVID-19.

The office staff have worked hard today to try to establish the number of children that we need to cater for from Monday. There has been – quite understandably – much confusion, particularly about who is classified as a key worker, and I thought it would be useful for parents to see what is proposed by the Government. I have printed below the principles and clarification that schools have been asked to work to:

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. And **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.

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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.

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 education provision:

### **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.

**If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.**

As you can see, the Government's key message is that children should be safe and that as many as possible should avoid attending school. The staff at Wroxall remain dedicated to keeping the wider community as safe as possible by following the Government's guidance as closely as possible. It is vital that we know if you fall under one of the above categories and if there is no other means of finding care for your child.

We will continue to contact you, via text messaging and email, to keep you up to date as this unprecedented situation unfolds and to support the children's learning whilst not at school. Meanwhile, thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. We hope to see your children back at Wroxall happy and healthy as soon as the current extraordinary situation has been resolved.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard May', written over a faint circular stamp.

Richard May

Chair of Governors