

 **Miss Ceinwen Lodge**

 **Headteacher**

Dear parents and carers,

Following last night’s announcement that we are entering a further national lockdown, primary schools throughout the country will remain closed until February half term to all pupils with the exception of vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.

The government definition of critical workers is defined below:

**Critical workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections:

**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:

* childcare
* support and teaching staff
* social workers
* specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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
* 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
* essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
* 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 and border**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
* 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
* waste disposal sectors

If you meet the criteria above and require a place for your child at school, please email me at c.lodge@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk or phone the school office on 01535 604240 before 2pm today. This will enable us to plan effective provision for critical worker and vulnerable children. It is essential that school is a last resort for families, as the whole point of closing is to limit the numbers of staff and pupils in school in order to reduce the rate of transmission of the virus.

Further information will follow regarding this provision and also details for remote learning for all other pupils. Thank you for your support whilst we organise the monumental task of shifting to remote learning for an entire school with very little notice.

Kind regards



Miss Lodge

Headteacher