

Dear Parents and Carers

Important information regarding pupil attendance from Monday 23 March 2020

Firstly, thank you for the very supportive approach that you have taken during these exceptionally challenging times. **Whilst we are formally closed from Monday 23 March** onwards, we will continue to support your child; although this is **not a statutory requirement** we wish to do our best to support the national response.

At midnight last night, the government released information about the key workers for whom the school will stay open. Whilst the school is here to support you as parents of frontline services and your children, we need to make sure that we are acting appropriately in this time.

The information published by the government is at

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

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. **That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

It also goes on to say, under the key principles of the guidance, before any mention of key workers: **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**

"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."

Based on the number of applications, we may, or may not, be able to accommodate all requests since our capacity is capped to 20% of our total number of children on role. If the provision is too large it negates any benefits of the social distancing measures the government has imposed and through associated contacts children and staff will be exposed to unacceptable risk. This is not 'business as usual' or a holiday and all medical advisers are clear that the safest place for children and families to be at present is at home with as little social contact as possible. The children that attend school will not be receiving a normal curriculum; the children may be in mixed age classes and be receiving an alternative education provision which will include regular PE.

For children coming in to school as of Monday 23rd March 2020, the following measures and precautions must be taken:

- Own clothes to be worn which are fresh on – we recommend putting clothes straight in the washing machine once returning home from school to minimise and control the spread of infection. Please make sure they wear clothes that are suitable for playing outside in
- Please make sure your child has a coat with them
- Please wash your child's PE kit over the weekend and return into school next week. This should then be rewashed at each weekend whilst the partial closure remains in place.
- Up to date contact details for family members must be available within school and emergency contact details should your child become poorly/exhibit symptoms of contracting coronavirus.

- We must register your child in and out of the premises by somebody who either has parental responsibility or has been nominated by yourselves, as long as you are all fit and well and not showing symptoms of coronavirus.
- If you become unwell with coronavirus symptoms, you must immediately contact school and arrange for collection of your child.
- Social distancing must be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection.
- School must be informed if you no longer fall within the critical worker list or you have been asked to self-isolate.
- Thorough hand washing to take place at home just before leaving the home.

Please do not just arrive at school on any day if your child has not had a confirmed place, as we will not be able to give your child a place at school.

If we have been able to accommodate your child, we will email you with confirmation shortly. We ask that you confirm the days and times we have offered you based on any preference you filled in on the survey we sent out yesterday.

At Timu, we are a community, and we will pull together to support the effort to keep our society safe. Therefore, we will remain open for the children who need it, but we strongly urge you to think very carefully of whether this is necessary for you.

I am immensely proud and need to acknowledge the professionalism, care and concern shown by all the staff at Timu at this unprecedented time. However, I need to make sure that our staff are well protected as key workers themselves, as they too have families and many have children of their own or are worried for elderly relatives.

Finally, I know that this time causes much anxiety, and as a result, we can all be a little more on edge. We all need to take care to choose our words carefully. I know that we will all do our best to support each other through this time.

Thank you for your continuing support

Mrs Browning

Executive Principal

Timu Academy Trust