

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Important information regarding student attendance – from Monday 23 March 2020**

Firstly, thank you for the very supportive approach that you have taken during these exceptionally challenging times. We all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#). The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear.

### **If children can now stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

It is important to underline that schools and colleges 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 our society.

**Whilst we are formally closed from Monday 23 March onwards**, we will continue to support your child, both academically and pastorally and our school remains at the heart of our community.

### **Special opening from Monday 23 March for the children of key workers and those entitled to specialist support**

#### **Key workers**

At midnight, the government published a list of those parent / carers who are entitled to send their child to school. The link below provides specific details.

<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 includes the following; Health and Social care, education and childcare, key public services, local and national government, food and other necessary goods, public safety and security, transport, utilities, communication and financial services.

We are grateful to all of these key workers who are looking after us all and keeping our essential services going. In return, our superb staff team are also going to 'step up to the plate' and provide provision for your child / children. It is critical to note, however, that this provision should only be taken up if there are no other alternatives (see guidance). **The government has asked parents/carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for children who absolutely need to attend:**





**Mesne Lea  
Primary School**  
Working together for individual

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## Specialist Support Provision

Those children with safeguarding and welfare needs, including those children on child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with Education Health and Care plans are also able to attend school.

## Free School Meals

Citywide and Mesne Lea are committed to working together to keep kitchens open to provide meals for the children in school and 'grab bags'. This is available to all pupils who currently receive free school meals. School will be in contact with families to inform them when and where to collect the 'grab bags' from.

We recognise the importance of keeping communication channels open. Any important updates during this closure will be communicated on our website, through the parent text messaging system and via Twitter. The emergency contact numbers for school will be 07879810476 and 07879811507 – this will be staffed between 9am and 3.30pm.

During closure, please encourage your child to make full use of the school learning resources as this sense of routine and work will support their independent learning whilst away from our school.

Mesne Lea will be closed to the majority of students but we are in no way closed in terms of our ongoing care, support and kindness.

With Best Wishes,

Mrs Anmarie Cartwright  
Acting Headteacher

Mr R Mellor  
Chair of Governors

