

Dear Parents and Carers

Closure of School due to Coronavirus

We have been instructed by the Department for Education to close the school to all students except those students whose parents are **critical workers** or have particular defined needs (see later section). This is part of the national strategy to delay the further spread of Coronavirus. **With effect from Monday 23 March, Grampian Primary Academy will be closed until further notice.**

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.**

More information for parents can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

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 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 the wider society.

Key Principles that the Government have set out:

Please follow these:

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. *Currently this will be at our school. But please be aware that this may change if we cannot provide sufficient and appropriate staffing.*
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.
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. (You may need to confirm this with your employer)



I realise that not attending school causes potential disruption to your child's learning and routine. The school has put in place steps to help students continue to learn whilst at home through home learning packs, Seesaw & Tapestry. Families should have already received this information in preparation for school having to close.

During the school closure, your child's non-attendance will not be marked as an unauthorised absence. This will not affect your child's attendance record.

I will keep you informed of any changes to the school closure via text message, Facebook, school website and where possible parent e-mail. If you have any questions on whole school arrangements, please e-mail the school GPA@grampian.derby.sch.uk

I would be grateful if you can keep up to date with the Public Health England guidance on Coronavirus so that you can keep yourself and your family safe. Use the website below, which is currently being updated daily:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

The government has asked schools to only remain open to students whose parents are critical workers or have an Education Health and Care Plan or social worker. If your child falls into one of these categories they are eligible to attend school.

For safeguarding and planning reasons we must know in advance which students are intending to come into school during the school closure.

If you wish for your child to continue to attend school, **please complete the response form below and return it to GPA@grampian.derby.sch.uk by 4 pm on Friday 20 March.** Please can response forms only be returned via this e-mail address GPA@grampian.derby.sch.uk Once we have received your form we will confirm that you have a place.

School will be open for these students only from Monday 23 March and will not be closed for INSET as previously advertised. We also intend to keep school open over the Easter holiday. For replies received after 4pm on Friday 20 March, students will be given an alternative start date. This is to aid us in planning the correct staffing levels.

Students attending school on Monday 23 March should be in clean clothes every day but we do not expect to see them in school uniform and report to the front office at 9am. Please note that the normal school behaviour policy applies whilst children are in school.

The school will be open in a caring capacity rather than a teaching capacity and students will be supervised completing the work set by their normal teachers. Supervision will be provided by a variety of staff from throughout the school.

We will continue to provide school meals for all key worker and vulnerable pupils in school as our catering team will be in school.



Parents should assume there is no public transport available and should make their own arrangements for their child to travel to and from school. Please contact Derby City Council if you require any further information on school transport.

The school will be open Monday to Friday from 9.00 – 3.30pm. Please can you arrange for your child to be collected by 3.30pm each day.

Free School Meals

If your child is not attending school and is eligible for a **free school meal**, school will continue to provide meals for these children. If you are eligible for free school meals, school will send out a text message confirming this by 3pm today.

Free school meals need to be pre-ordered by 10am each day. Orders can be placed by emailing schoolmeals@grampian.derby.sch.uk

Meals will need to be collected from school between 12-1pm. School will be **unable** to deliver meals to families as we will be reducing our staff levels in line with the government guidance, and to ensure we have staff throughout the Easter period.

It is important to underline that schools 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.

I appreciate that this is a difficult time for families and children, but I can assure you the school is taking every step possible to follow government guidance.

Our staff are working incredibly hard to play their role in supporting the government in their strategy to contain this virus. I know that you will join with me in thanking them for their dedication and commitment. Please do all you can to support them and help them at this time. Please work with us to protect them too and follow all Public Health Guidance.

As the situation evolves, we will continue to update you on how our plans change.

May I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Murfin

Headteacher



Reply Slip - If you wish for your child to continue to attend school

Pupil Name **Class**

Please tick the box below to indicate whether either you or your partner work in any of these groups. Once we have received forms we will confirm your place.

- 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.)

Please confirm your current employment below.

Parent 1:Parent 2:

Please return to the school office as soon as possible, or no later than [date].