Egginton Primary School
Church Road
Egginton
Derby
DE65 6HP

Tel: 01283 732748
Email: info@egginton.derbyshire.sch.uk
Website: www.egginton.derbyshire.sch.co.uk

Headteacher – Mr Richard Kitching

Monday, 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: School Closed to pupils from 5th January except for children of Critical Workers following the Prime Minister's announcement of national lockdown

I am writing this letter shortly after having watched the Prime Minister's broadcast on television this evening stating that all schools in England will be closed to all pupils except for children of Critical Workers that require provision in school. This is part of the national lockdown that the Government has decided is necessary to reduce the transmission rate of Covid-19. The Prime Minister stated that schools would be closed until February half term.

Tonight's announcement is the first time that schools in Derbyshire have been notified of this government directive. Although rumours have been in the press over the weekend, and today, Derbyshire schools have received no official government directive until watching the Prime Minister's broadcast this evening.

During the INSET day today, staff were in school preparing to welcome our pupils back into their classrooms for the new term. This was the government instruction given on 30th December and a full opening of school is what we have prepared for. However, we will now have to make significant readjustments and changes to planning in order to provide learning for our pupils that are sadly not able to attend. I am sure that you can understand and appreciate that it will take time to adjust but we will have remote learning opportunities in place as soon as possible.

If you are a critical worker and you will require a place in school for your child, please can you email me directly at headteacher@egginton.derbyshire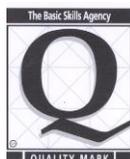.sch.uk. Please could you do this by 12 noon tomorrow. **Given the extremely late notice of the Prime Minister's announcement, and the time now needed to discuss actions with staff, I strongly request that no children of critical workers attend school tomorrow (5th January) unless absolutely essential. We will make provision for pupils of critical workers from Wednesday 6th January.**
For your reference, the government's definition of who is classes as a critical worker is at the bottom of this letter.

We recognise and are sorry for the inevitable frustration, confusion and disappointment that tonight's school closure announcement will cause for our pupils and families. We were looking forward to welcoming the pupils back to school in the new year and we are extremely sad that will now not be the case.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Richard Kitching
Headteacher

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