

## SCHOOL CLOSURES AND CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Due to an outbreak of the Covid-19 virus, all schools in England, Wales and Scotland are closed from Friday the 20th of March 2020 until further notice.

The government is asking you to keep your children at home.

Schools will remain open only for the children of **key workers**, **vulnerable children** or children on an **Education**, **Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**.

**Key Workers**: workers in health & social care and education & childcare; key public services; local and national government; food and other necessary goods; public safety and national security; transport; utilities (electricity, gas, water, garbage, sewer), communication and financial services<sup>1</sup>.

**Vulnerable children**: children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with <u>education</u>, <u>health and care</u> (EHCP) plans up to the age of 25<sup>2</sup>.

**Summer exams:** The decision has been made to cancel all summer exams, across all schools, colleges, and universities.

**Free School meals:** Children and young people who are eligible for free school meals will continue to receive them<sup>3</sup>. This could include take home meals, food parcels or vouchers. Contact your school for more information.

**Child-care:** do not ask older relatives, or those with compromised immune systems to care for your children.

**Play dates:** do not let your children play with children they do not live with. They must obey strict social distancing.

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