



20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is going out to all parents. Thank you to those of you who completed the online survey or contacted us about your key worker status. Mrs Evans has been in contact with people **who are not** eligible from the survey. Therefore, if you completed the survey **and** have not been told otherwise, your child has a place on Monday.

PROVISION FROM MONDAY

The Government has now released a list of 'key workers'. A full list can be found 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 school are aiming to open to provide childcare for a small number of children who fit into the 'key worker' category or are classed as a vulnerable child. Should we be unable to remain open, you are advised to contact the local educational authority, to find an alternative setting for your child. Where possible, we would hope to avoid this happening.

Many parents working in these critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, this includes if your child has an EHCP.**

This is an offer to parents and carers who cannot do this and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so. We are trying to maintain the advice on social distancing that the Government is strongly recommending.

For vulnerable children, your child's social worker will work with you to assess the best option for your child.

The key advice from the Government is that:

- 1. If your child can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**
2. 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 hope that many workers will have had the support that they need to work remotely from home. We do understand that this situation is difficult for families, however please appreciate that we have a duty of care to keep both children who need to attend, and our staff as safe as possible.

The provision at Rokeby will be available from 9am – 3pm, Monday to Friday. All children who are eligible should come via the main entrance where they will be asked to sign in, set a password and book lunches for the week. If your child is attending and is in receipt of free school meals, this will continue to be paid for. Other children are able to book lunches and pay as usual.

If you need your child to attend childcare provision in school, please can you:

- Ensure that they are wearing comfortable clothing, trainers and bring a waterproof jacket. They do not need to wear school uniform.
- Encourage your child to comply with the rules of the school when on site, these are set out in the behaviour policy, which can be found on the school website.
- Notify school if you no longer fall within the 'key worker' list or you no longer require childcare or you fall into a category that are required to self-isolate.
- Inform school if a member of your household becomes unwell with coronavirus symptoms. You must immediately contact school and arrange for collection of your child.

Children attending the provision will be accessing childcare and not education.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

If your child usually receives free school meal funding, (this does not include universal free school meals), you will be able to come to the office between 9am and 3pm on Mondays to collect co-op voucher of the same value for each child eligible.

ROKEBY NAPPY AND FOOD BANK

If you are finding it difficult to get essentials such as nappies and store cupboard items, we have some available to parents. Please come to school between 9am and 3pm on a Monday to take up to 5 essential items.

If you require more than just a few items, we will continue to give out food bank vouchers, also on Mondays between 9am and 3pm.

SAFEGUARDING AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Being away from school and some of your support systems can seem daunting. Rokeby have set up a few things to continue to support our families.

For non urgent support such as parenting, mental health support or sign posting to other agencies, please email our family support team on RokebyFamilySupport@stowevalley.com This will be manned between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday.

For more urgent concerns such as safeguarding concerns, or for immediate support, please call our Family Support Mobile on 07385 127 649. This will be manned between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday. This number should only be used for this purpose. All other calls should go through the main office.

For anything outside of these hours that is an emergency, please call the police (999 or 101 for the community team) or MASH 01926 414144.

If your child is classed as 'vulnerable' and not attending school, you will be contacted by the team via email today. Your allocated worker will either be Mrs James, Mrs Pinks, Miss Woodhill or Mrs Brindley.

STORY TIME

Our amazing staff at Rokeby want to help your children in this difficult time and have recorded themselves reading their favourite stories. We will upload these, one per day, on our new YouTube channel – Rokeby Primary School.

TRIPS

It is with a heavy heart that we have decided to cancel all trips for the remainder of this academic year. You will all receive a full refund minus any other money that you owe school. Please understand that this will take time to sort out. All refunds will be done via Parent Pay, therefore if you do not yet have a Parent Pay account, you will need to set one up in order to receive your refund.

Thank you for your ongoing support during these difficult times. The community has been wonderful and so supportive of school and its staff in these unprecedented times. We wish you all good health and hope to see you soon. Although things are different, we are still here to support and serve our community – do not feel alone.

'Tough times do not last forever, tough communities do'.

Regards,

Mrs James.