

# Mengham Junior School

Palmerston Road, Hayling Island,  
Hampshire. PO11 9ET



Co-Headteachers: Mrs O Davies & Mr E Harrison

Tel: 023 92462162

E-mail: [adminoffice@mengham-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@mengham-jun.hants.sch.uk)

Website: [www.menghamjunior.co.uk](http://www.menghamjunior.co.uk)

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20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may be aware, further guidance has been released this morning with regard to limited provision in school.

It is important to be clear that the government is anticipating 10% of children will need to attend school throughout the closure. If the number of parents requesting provision is significantly greater than this then the measure for reducing the spread of the virus becomes limited in its effect.

**EVERY child that can be cared for at home should be cared for at home.**

However, if both parents in a two parent household or the parent in a single parent household are working, and one of these parents is working in a role which is critical to the Covid-19 response (as identified below), and you cannot keep your child safe at home then please contact the school.

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

The Government has identified a list of critical workers that they wish to support by providing a skeleton school service.

This list is as follows:

Health and Social Care Workers	Includes; Doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, producers and distributors of medicines and medical personal protective equipment, front line health and social care staff.
Education and Childcare	Nursery and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals.
Key Public Services	Those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charity workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, journalists or broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.
Local and National Government	Those employed as part of the Covid19 response or engaged in public services such as the payment of benefits.

At Mengham Junior School we aspire to be Successful learners, Healthy and Confident individuals,  
Responsible members of our community



Food and Other Necessary Goods	Those involved in food production, processing, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods. (ie hygienic and veterinary medicines)
Public safety and national security	Includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national service outputs and essential to the response to the Covid19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees, 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 operating.
Utilities, communications and financial services	Workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure, oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector employees, staff working in civil, nuclear, chemicals, telecommunication, postal services and delivery, waste disposal services.

If parents think they fall within the critical categories above, they should confirm with their employer that, based on business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

If you are a key worker under the criteria and wish for your child to be in school please ring the school office on 02392 462162 by 3pm today (even if you contacted the office yesterday). They will take key information on your role from you. Final decisions regarding places will be made by 5pm today and you will be contacted directly if we are able to offer your child provision.

Please be aware that under this guidance the schools will be offering reduced provision. The children will not necessarily be working with their normal class teacher as we manage a rota of staffing which allows school to continue to run in the current climate. School meals can still be provided for children attending school if requested.

School will be contacting our more vulnerable families directly today to discuss how we can continue to support them.

In terms of the provision of free school meals, we will be working with our catering team to provide a cold packed lunch each day for children who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals. We will be delivering these meals to families throughout the morning. If your child is eligible and you would like to take part in this service you can phone or email the office each Monday morning with the days you require a lunch delivery that week. If for any reason there is a change of circumstances, and you no longer require a meal on a certain day, then please advise the office before 9.30am so that we don't waste food or delivery time.

Thank you again for your continued support during this very difficult time.

Odele Davies and Edward Harrison  
Co Headteachers