 **Head Teacher – Mrs Helen Gregory**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year everyone; I hope you have all had a wonderful festive period. There has been a lot of speculation over the Christmas period with regards to whether schools are to remain open. We have been instructed, by both the Government and the Local Authority, that primary schools are to remain open at this moment in time. That is not to say that this may change.

As a school, we have decided to develop contingency plans to cover all eventualities, including a school closure. At Durham Lane Primary, we believe that educating children **face- to - face** in school is of paramount importance, but we also recognise that the new strain of Covid-19, which is sweeping across the country at an unprecedented rate, is a cause for concern for parents and staff alike. We, therefore, must be ready to close school if the Government and/or Local Authority decides that this is the best option.

Back in March, we surveyed parents to ascertain which of you were key workers so that we could continue to provide face to face teaching for those children; we realise that circumstances may have changed and so we would like to ask you to answer the following questions:

**Could you please copy questions (1 – 6) and return your responses via an email to** **durhamlane@sbcschools.org.uk**

**by Thursday 7th January 2021**

1)Name of child/children Year Group(s)

2) Do you consider yourself to be a critical worker (please see the list on the next page)? YES/NO

Please state your employment

Contact details

3) If you are a critical worker, do you intend to send your child/children into school if school closures are put in place? YES/NO

4) Do you believe your child/children is/are in the vulnerable child category (please see the list at the bottom of the 3rd page)? YES/NO

5) If you believe your child/children is/are in the vulnerable child category, do you intend sending your child/children into school if school closures are put into place? YES/NO

6) Is there anything else we need to know regarding your intentions should school closures come into force?

**If you are not a critical worker, your child is not in the vulnerable child category or you do not wish to send your child into school during this period of enforced school closure, remote learning is staturory and staff will be required to educate your child via our home-learning platform- Seesaw.**

Should school closures come into operation, we will, of course, give you further details about how remote learning will take place and will contact you in due course.

**List of critical workers and vulnerable catergories**

**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

**Vulnerable children category**

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

* are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
* have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
* have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
* children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services or in the process of being referred to children’s services
* adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
* those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’)
* those living in temporary accommodation
* those who are young carers
* those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
* care leavers
* others at the provider and local authority’s discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

We thank you for your continued support and understanding during this very difficult situation we all find ourselves in.

Kind regards,

Helen Gregory