



## RODE AND NORTON ST PHILIP SCHOOL FEDERATION

Headteacher: Mrs G Muxworthy

### **RODE METHODIST FIRST SCHOOL**

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Tuesday 5th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start on a positive note by wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

Alas, I think you would all agree this is not the start of the year that any of us would have hoped for. Staff spent Monday's INSET Day working with a training leader developing our lunchtime play provision and preparing for a normal week of teaching in school.

Following the government bulletin at 8pm last night it is once again necessary to close our schools to the majority of pupils from Tuesday 5th January in order to help the national effort to thwart Covid-19. At the moment the government are asking schools to remain closed until February half-term.

From Wednesday 6th January, the school will be open to the children of Critical Workers and children deemed vulnerable according to the government criteria. A definitive list of Critical Workers produced by the government is included below.

Please could you email me on [GMuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:GMuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk) by 1pm on Tuesday 5th January if you are without other childcare options and your child meets these criteria. If you are working from home in a non-critical capacity then the expectation from the government is that your child should not attend school. Obviously, the more children we have in school at this time the greater the exposure to risk for all concerned. In some circumstances, parents may be asked to produce evidence of their Critical Worker status.

In order to aid planning for teachers we are asking for the children that need provision to attend school full-time for whole week blocks. This will enable staff in school to build knowledge across a week rather than children dipping in and out. For example, children might start writing a story, which they develop through the week.

All other children will be provided with home learning from their class teachers and they will be contacting you directly. Please ensure they have your correct email addresses for correspondence. We have had no notice at all of these changes so please bear with staff as

we change our planned lessons into virtual learning and gather the information we need from parents to set up provision for Critical Workers' children and those that are vulnerable.

We will continue to review the situation on a regular basis and I will keep you updated with regular emails.

Thank you for the huge number of supportive emails I have already received over night and I am grateful for your support and flexibility at this challenging time.

Many thanks

George Muxworthy

Headteacher Rode and Norton First School Federation

Critical workers List on Government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>