



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel No: 01928 564053

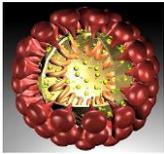
NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mr A Hilldrup

Email: head.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk

Website: <http://haltonlodge.haltonschools.info/>

20th March 2020



Coronavirus Update

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#). And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response **and cannot be safely cared for at home.**

Vulnerable children include 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 [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans.](#)

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child(ren) is/are kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Parents/Carers are, therefore, asked to follow these key principles:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- **If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.**

- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
- Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

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 nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the 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, and 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 COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, 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 COVID-19 pandemic), 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 - This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems 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 COVID-19 response, as well as 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 and waste disposal sectors.

If you work within one of the critical categories listed above – and you are not able to keep your child(ren) at home - you must let us know on which days, over the next two weeks (and beyond) that you require your child(ren) to attend school. This can be done by emailing head.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk and briefly outlining your job title (occupation) and working pattern – so that we are clear on which days your child will need to attend school; and ensure we have the requisite number of staff on site.

Please be aware that, although schools have been asked to remain open during the Easter holiday period, we have essential building and maintenance work scheduled to take place throughout the Easter period – which will require the full 2 weeks to complete. Therefore, this is not possible at our school on this occasion. However, if you qualify as one of the families who can continue to send your child to school – and are desperate for childcare arrangements to be put in place (between 6th & 17th April) – please let us know and we will do our very best to find alternative childcare within the local community for you!



New free school meals guidance:

It has also been confirmed that schools will be given the flexibility to deliver meals (or provide shop vouchers) to children entitled to benefit-related free school meals - if the child is no longer attending school, either due to closures or as a result of self-isolating at home.

We are working with Halton Catering Services to consider how we can best support the 113 children at our school who qualify for this additional help and support. We will be in contact with you as soon as these plans are finalised.

However, for the next two weeks – from Monday 23rd March - a free school meal (in the form of a packed school lunch) will be available for collection from the school gates immediately outside the school kitchen – on Grangeway - between 11am and 12:30pm each day. Please telephone the school between 8:30am and 10:00am if it is your intention to collect one of these. It is important that an adult comes to collect these NOT A CHILD!



Safeguarding and Child Protection

In terms of safeguarding, we are continuing to monitor the safety and welfare of our students during this. Should you have any concerns during the period of closure you should e-mail head.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk. This account will be monitored regularly during the closure period.

Should you have concerns during the Easter break then you can still e-mail the school, but we would also advise you to contact the Local Authority ICART on 0303 333 4300 from 9am – 5pm. *For any concerns outside these time please contact Social Care Emergency Duty Team on 0345 050 0148.*

Please remember that the school will be using StudyBugs, SeeSaw (Years 1 to 6) and Tapestry (Reception) as the official methods of communication during the period of school closures, to ensure reliable and clear communication from the school. Furthermore, it is likely that your child's class teacher may ring you to 'check in' and see how everything is going. These calls will be made from the school using the school mobiles or main telephone line.

Please ensure that you encourage your child(ren) to work through their Home Learning Packs and to read every day, as well as looking for other ways – e.g. online learning and taking part in the 9:00am Joe Wicks daily workout on You Tube – to maintain a positive attitude to their education and learning.

Finally, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

