



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone is staying safe and managing to enjoy some quality family time in what are really difficult circumstances for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support during the challenges created by the Coronavirus outbreak.

As Easter is now upon us, we wanted to keep in touch to remind you of our current situation regarding school places as well as informing you of how future arrangements may operate.

Since the Government announced school closures, we have been working hard to see how we can manage to keep schools open, whilst keeping the environment safe for staff and children according to Public Health England advice. We are updating you because we now have firmer guidance on how schools will manage allocation of places.

**At this time, Government advice is still that the safest place for children is at home, and you should only send children into schools as a last resort.**

The motivation behind these measures is to reduce the risk of the spread of infection and safeguard the public.

As we have come to see how schools can now operate, and following updated guidance, we wanted to remind you of which families can access a school place. This will be subject to change as schools can only stay open if they can balance sufficiently low numbers of children attending, (thereby keeping risk of infection to a minimum), and with a sufficiently high number of staff able to attend in order to comply with safeguarding guidelines.

You can apply for a school place if you cannot otherwise care for your children safely at home and meet the following criteria:

- 1. Pupils where either parent is a critical worker in the frontline COVID-19 response e.g. NHS medical staff**
- 2. Schools places are also provided for those children allocated a social worker or Educational Health Care (EHC) Plan or within a vulnerable category.**
- 3. Children where both parents are keyworkers, or the child is of a single parent family of a keyworker as stated above.**
- 4. Children where one parent is a keyworker, and where the child cannot be safely cared for at home.** This category may require further information being shared with the school regarding individual circumstances, all cases will be considered with care.

**If you believe your child/ren now qualify for a school place then please email us on [safeguarding@pvacademies.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@pvacademies.derbyshire.sch.uk) or call us on 01773 303420 (option 5 during the school day).**

We are endeavouring to keep a school place open for all children and their families in the groups above during ever-changing circumstances, this in the future may lead to some schools 'hubbing' together with others to keep the service open. Pinxton Village Academies are already 'hubbing'. Whilst continuing to support the schools, our staff are also facing their own challenges and we therefore ask that you please treat them with respect. Though our schools are closed, we are still here to help.

Take care and stay safe everyone,

Yours sincerely,

Jan Pierce  
(Executive Headteacher)

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Jan Pierce

Deputy Head Teacher: Mr Adam Butterworth Assistant Head Teachers: Miss Jess Knighton & Miss Mel Bentley