

Live and Learn for Life



Neroche Community Primary School
Broadway, Near Ilminster
Somerset, TA19 9RG

Telephone
01460 52664

Headteacher
Mrs Alison Collins
BEd Hons, NPQH

**Assistant Head
Teachers**
Mrs Claire Eastwood
Miss Jessica Millard



School Website : www.neroche.somerset.sch.uk

School email: sch.067@educ.somerset.gov.uk

20th March 2020

Key Worker – Child Care

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience regarding the child care provision we are being asked to provide from Monday. I am sure you can appreciate, as talked about on the news, the coordination and organisation surrounding this is vast and we are doing our up most to ensure we can offer this to the families of Key Workers, who have **no alternative**.

We have now got a plan and this will be sent to the families who have notified us that they will potentially need this provision.

The school is closing as planned today at 3.30pm as an education setting until we are directed to re-open. Nobody knows at this stage when this will be.

Schools from Monday are being asked to continue to provide care for a **limited** number of children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response **and cannot be safely cared for at home**. Many parents working in a Key Worker role will still be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow the Government's key principle:

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

The childcare provision we will be offering from Monday is therefore, only for children **where there is no other option**. The Government have been very clear in their guidance and wherever possible have reinforced that children of key workers should remain at home if possible.

Key workers who are working at home, for whatever circumstance, should therefore keep their children at home to ensure schools are only caring for a limited, minority of children.

We are urging you, even as Key Workers, to look at all possible options for you to keep your children at home in line with the very clear Government guidance. We appreciate that the guidance states at least one

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parent needs to be a key worker to ensure your eligibility for the childcare **but if you are working at home yourself we will be expecting you to keep your children at home with you.**

The Government made it very clear that the **minority** of children will be in schools from Monday. We are asking you to take this advice very seriously.

If both parents are key workers, please consider taking shifts at different times wherever possible so your children can remain at home in line with the guidance.

If this isn't possible, then of course we can support you as a Key Worker, but it has been widely acknowledged that if possible, children should be at home and that the school child care should only be used if there is no way they can be safely cared for at home.

We thank you for your patience at this very difficult time.

Best wishes



Alison Collins
Headteacher



Dave Tucker
Chair of Governors

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