



Bicton C of E Primary School and Nursery

Telephone: 01743 850212 Email: admin@bicton.shropshire.sch.uk

Website: www.bictonschool.org.uk



Closures of schools, childcare and other educational settings

Bicton CE Primary School and Nursery will close on Friday 20th March.

We have had unexpectedly high demand for places on our keyworker childcare provision to be run from Monday 23rd March 2020 at Bicton C E Primary School. We have limited places available due to the necessity of keeping this provision at the correct scale to protect both our staff and the children who attend. If the provision is too large it negates any benefits of the social distancing measures the government has imposed and through associated contacts children and staff will be exposed to unacceptable risk.

The government has asked schools to provide care for a limited number of children, during the current crisis, for children of critical workers and vulnerable children where they can. We will be providing childcare provision at Bicton C E Primary School from 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday for pupils whose parents/carers meet the "critical worker" criteria or for children who are classed as *vulnerable.

*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.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

This is not 'business as usual' or a holiday and all medical advisers are clear that the safest place for children and families to be at present is **at home with as little social contact as possible**. These childcare places are intended for families who have no other adult at home to look after children and who are immediately required in the response to this virus.

We will have a small team of Bicton staff who will work on a rota basis during this time. This means your child's class teacher will not be on site every day. We also have several staff who will not be on site at all during the closure due to their health and being classed as 'high risk.' We are currently working on plans to enable us to be open during the Easter holidays for our key worker parents.



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Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

We will do everything we can to remain open for as long as possible. In the event that we have to close, please contact Shropshire Council and they will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend

Please email admin@bicton.shropshire.sch.uk by 5:00 pm today (or have made contact with us by telephone) to confirm that you will be applying for one of the places that will be available and your reasons for this. A copy of your work ID badge, contract of employment or other formal proof of your role will be required. If you have already contacted me, provided evidence of you being a key worker, and I have confirmed your child's place you do not need to do so again.

You will be contacted by 6pm on Saturday 21st March with confirmation of whether your child has a place.

No other children will be admitted to the provision at Bicton C E Primary School on Monday morning and will be turned away.

Thank you to all of our keyworkers for your commitment to our public services and everything you are doing in these challenging circumstances.

Kindest regards

Mrs Johnson

The school kitchen are running as normal, and they will be providing a hot meal for children on site who are in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 or who are eligible for free school meals.

Nursery children and those in Years 3 to 6 can order and pay for a hot meal.

Children should be brought to and collected from the side Hall door. Please do not bring children to the main reception.

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