

March 20th 2020

Dear families of Arnett Hills JMI – thank you for your many kind wishes which are hugely appreciated by the staff. We, in turn, wish you well at this difficult time.

Please read the following as in the midst of the worries that parents are experiencing around their job security and childcare, the central message from government appears to be getting lost. It does not help that clarification was only published very late last night.

Key information I would like to draw to your attention is:

- **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading**
- **Schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**
- **the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.**
- **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. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

The government has outlined the following key principles and we will be applying these:

The government has said that schools are to provide ‘care’ (not education) for a limited number of children. Please rest assured that this will not mean the children will be sat watching films – as has been suggested! The children will be in mixed age groups which will vary day to day and will not be following the usual curriculum.

Teachers will be teaching on a daily rota system as we need to protect them and maintain a healthy workforce.

In essence, if you are not a key worker or the parent/carer of a child with an EHCP, your child will not be coming to school. Work for children not attending school will be on the school website on Monday (as uploading the folders is proving very time consuming).

If you are in one of the ‘permitted’ categories, but are able to keep your child at home in order to reduce the spread of the virus, please do so as directed by the government.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter

Miss T Ali