

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you last week to set out our plans for opening this term following the Government's announcement just before the New Year.

In that letter, I said that we planned to open tomorrow (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January) to all pupils following our staff training day today, but that we would keep this position under review. I promised to keep you updated should the plans change, and that is why I am writing to you today.

You will all be aware that Portsmouth was placed in Tier 4 before Christmas. However, the Government deemed that it was not an area with rates of Covid-19 transmission high enough that the re-opening of primary schools should be delayed, except for children of key workers or those classed as vulnerable.

However, rates of infection have continued to rise and we know that many of you are concerned about schools opening and how this may impact the health of your child, of your family, of school staff, and of the wider community. As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible but we share your concerns, as do many others. Our first priority is always the health of your children, our staff and the community beyond our school gates, including you, and this has been the case more than ever since March and the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

As a result, we have taken the decision that Moorings Ways will remain closed tomorrow and Wednesday, except for children of key workers or those classed as vulnerable. I am sorry that this information is coming to you with short notice we have endeavoured today to look at ways to keep our school open but have had to come to this decision within our Academy Trust. High-quality remote learning will be provided for all pupils not in school, so that they are able to maintain their education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage with the remote learning packs as much as possible is so important and we are very grateful for it.

It is regrettable that we have had to come to the decision to delay opening but we have taken it in the best interests of your children, our staff and our community, and that is what always guides us. We believe it is the right thing to do.

As before we will continue to keep this position under review, and will be in touch again on Wednesday to let you know the plans for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January and beyond. However, do let me know if you would like to discuss this matter, or if you require any support with arrangements for tomorrow and Wednesday.

#### **VULNERABLE STUDENTS AND CRITICAL WORKER PROVISION**

I appreciate that for many parents, the closure of your school will cause further disruption. We are committed to supporting our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers who are dealing with the current crisis.

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
- Education of childcare
- Key public services
- Local or National Government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

If you wish to use this provision please complete the below form in advance email it to by 8am Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January . **Following this date you must give the school 24 hours notice that you need to use this provision so that we can provide appropriate staffing.** Pupils arriving without giving 24 hours' notice may be turned away if we do not have adequate staffing.

Please be aware that during w/c 4<sup>th</sup> January, provision for this group of students will be slightly different from their usual lessons, as students will be required to form a new independent bubble that will contain only these students. This is to reduce risk and prevent any unnecessary mixing with other bubbles.

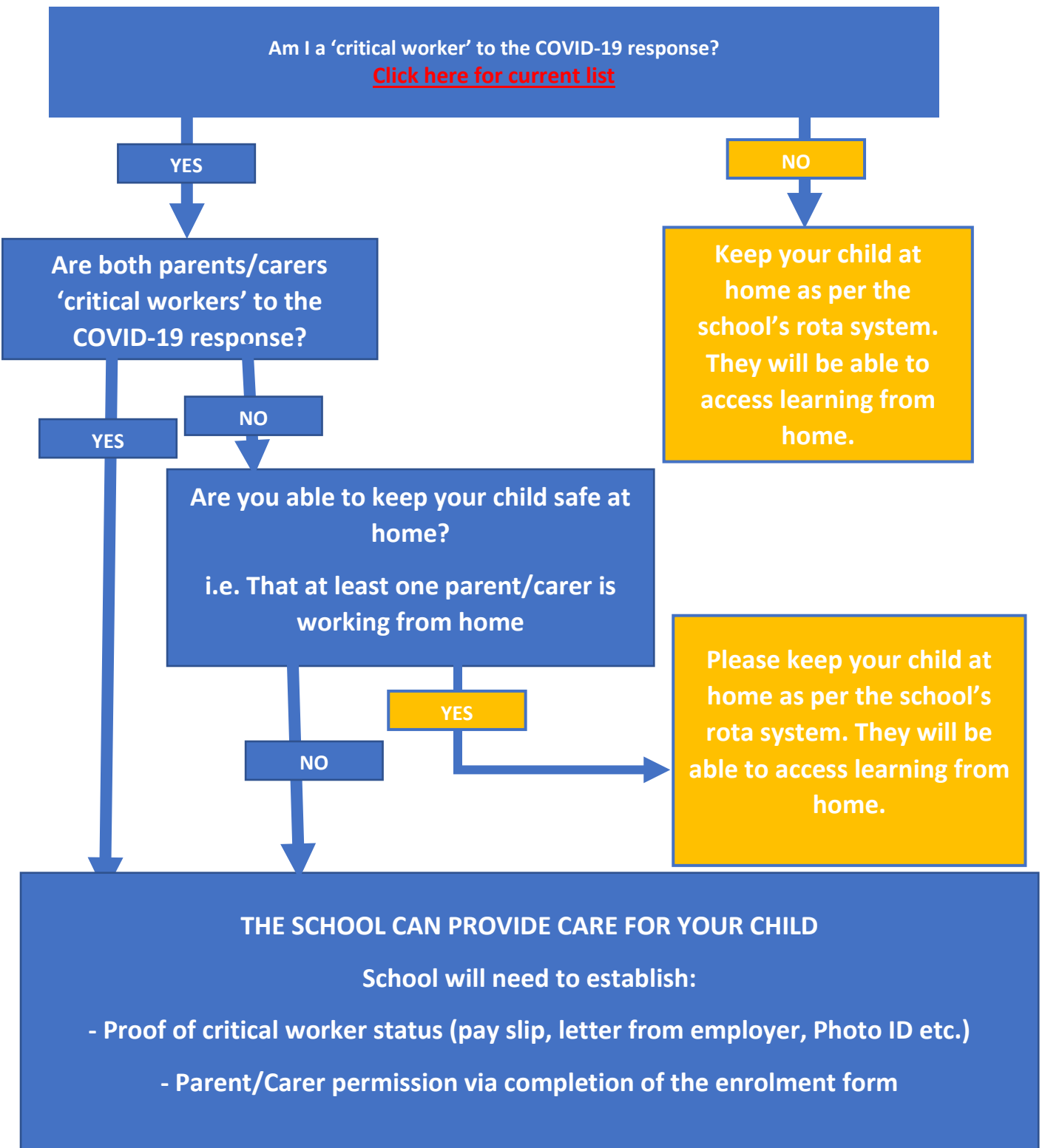
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Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Vonk

Moorings Way Infant School



**Supervision for eligible students at school**

Name of student:	Year group:	Class:
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Reason for eligibility:

Key worker? Yes / No	If yes – what is your role?	Pleased tick to confirm that you have attached evidence of role – please see below for guidance.
Vulnerable student? Yes / No	The school will already have the evidence of this	

Days you would like your child to be supervised – **please tick after cross-referencing with the rota for your daughter/son’s year group:**

	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	Weds 6 <sup>th</sup>		

We would like students who are attending school from Tuesday onwards to do the following:

- Arrive at school between 08:50 and 09:00.
- Be picked up between 15:10 and 15:20.
- Maintain the school’s behaviour policy.
- Wear normal school uniform.
- Complete the work set by their school so that they can continue their learning during this time.

If numbers wanting to access the critical worker/vulnerable student bubble are higher than staffing allows, vulnerable students will be prioritised.

I understand that:

- **If anyone in my household exhibits symptoms of Coronavirus my child will not attend school for 14 days from the point that the symptoms started. The school will need to be notified.**
- **If my child exhibits any symptoms of the Coronavirus they will not attend school for 10 days from the date of symptom onset and until they are better and no longer have any symptoms. The school will be notified.**
- **If my child exhibits any symptoms of the Coronavirus whilst in childcare they will be isolated and I will be asked to pick them up immediately. The school will advise me of the self-isolation timeline.**
- **If a child in the key worker bubble tests positive for Coronavirus, the school will carry out track and trace and notify parents if their child needs to be collected to self-isolate**

Please sign below to confirm that you have read and understood this letter and the expectations for students attending for supervision:

Parental name	Parent signature	Date

Evidence of role should include one of the following:

- Signed letter from employer stating that you work in the services listed here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>
- Pay slip, letter from employer, Photo ID from Emergency services, Education, Government etc.