Dear Families,

You may have heard the Prime Minister's press conference this evening regarding school closures.

The summary position is that schools will be closed to most pupils from Monday 23rd March until further notice. However, schools will remain open to children with an EHC Plan; those with a Social Worker; and children of critical workers. The definition of critical workers was not clarified but there was direct mention of health workers; police officers; supermarket delivery drivers; and social care workers who look after the elderly.

Earlier today, you should have received a Westgarth Weekly outlining our intended provision for children not attending school.

Once we receive a published list of of defined critical workers, we will ask families to let us know if they fall into this category and, if so, if they would like their children to continue attending school. We will then make arrangements for those children including staffing, curriculum, meal provision and First Aid.

We will contact families being supported by a Social Worker, or where a child has an EHC Plan directly.

Please be aware that school leaders heard the same information at the same time as the rest of the UK public this evening, so we will share further clarification with you as it is communicated to us by the Department for Education over the next two days. We, too, have unanswered questions, at present.

However, once again, please be assured that we fully understand the challenges, and share the anxieties, being faced by all families in our community and beyond. We can only reassure you that we are doing all we can to follow government direction, whilst trying to best support the interests of our children and families.

Yours sincerely,

J Woodhead

Headteacher