



Little Meadow Group

19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Government announcement on Wednesday that schools and Early Years settings will close to most children on Friday we are sorry to say that tomorrow (Friday 20th March) will be the last day that we are open generally until further notice. We hope to be able to continue to offer some provision to the categories of key workers and vulnerable children but we are awaiting further guidance from the government and local authority on what this should consist of.

Whilst we don't yet know the definition of a 'key worker' suggested occupations to be included are NHS staff, police, fire, ambulance, School and Early Years setting staff and social workers and supermarket delivery drivers, who need to be able to go to work to support the country's fight to tackle Coronavirus..

Vulnerable children are defined as those who have a Social Worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) – a legal document that describes a child's special educational needs and the support they require.

The advice today from both the Department for Education and the Gloucestershire Early Years Service states that Children who do not fall into either of these groups should remain at home with appropriate care. Some families will have only one Key Worker and the other parent will be expected to care for their child(ren).

If there are any children that meet the criteria and are likely to need continued provision please email us on littlemeadowgroup.manager@hotmail.co.uk so that we can make plans for staffing within our setting or at an alternative setting. Please be advised this provision will not deliver a continuation of the curriculum based early education that we would normally provide. You will be required to confirm your Key Worker status and may be asked for documents that support this. If you work a shift pattern this provision will only be available whilst you are on shift and again evidence of this may be required.

When the government definition of key worker is clearer, if you then consider yourself to be a key worker and in need of continuous provision please email to the address above. Please also confirm your category and key worker status if applicable.

We will of course monitor developments closely and would like to keep in contact with you over the coming months. If you are on the parent Facebook group please feel free to share any news, milestones, wow moments or activities which your child has enjoyed. Below is a link to a website called Hungry Little Minds which has age appropriate activities which you can do with your child. <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

There are many other websites with great ideas and we will try to post some to our own Facebook page over the next few weeks.

The latest advice for the public can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Please keep yourselves and your families as safe as possible and we look forward to welcoming you back to setting as soon as is safely possible.

