



Dear Parents/Carers,

**INFORMATION FOR CRITICAL WORKER PARENTS – January 2021**

**Schools have been asked to CLOSE to protect the children and their families.**

**Schools are being asked to provide care for a limited number of children – those that are vulnerable and those where parents are a ‘critical worker’.**

Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Parents whose work is **critical** to the COVID-19 response or whose child is in the **Vulnerable** category **must look on our school website ‘Key Information’, complete the ‘Critical Worker – school place’ form and email it to** [**office@southridgefirst.org.uk**](mailto:office@southridgefirst.org.uk) **(Please note, if you email, you will not receive an immediate reply due to the short time-scale, but staff will be expecting your child to attend.)**

Drop off and pick up times will continue to be staggered as in the Autumn term – please adhere to your allocated time slot.

If your child normally attends Children’s Choice breakfast club /wraparound or out of school club please email them separately to confirm your child’s attendance

[Childrenschoicesouthridge@hotmail.com](mailto:Childrenschoicesouthridge@hotmail.com) [Southridgeoutofschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Southridgeoutofschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk)

\*\*Children’s Choice have confirmed that they will be open for critical worker/vulnerable children tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January), but provision beyond this date will be dependent on numbers. Please contact them directly for more information\*\*

If your child is not in the critical worker /vulnerable categories class teachers will contact you with information on how to access remote learning from home.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Finn Willcock**

**Acting Headteacher**

**The definition of vulnerable children and young people and critical workers is below (DfE Guidance on Critical Workers and Vulnerable Category – 3rd Dec 2020)**

**Vulnerable children and young people -**Those who:

* are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
* have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
* have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  + children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services
  + adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’)
  + those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers
  + those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  + others at the provider and local authority’s discretion

**Critical workers -** Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

**Health and social care -** This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK’s health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

**Education and childcare -** This includes:

* childcare
* support and teaching staff
* social workers
* specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

**Key public services -** This includes:

* those essential to the running of the justice system
* religious staff
* charities and workers delivering key frontline services
* those responsible for the management of the deceased
* journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

**Local and national government -** This only includes:

* those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
* or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies

**Food and other necessary goods -** This includes those involved in food:

* production
* processing
* distribution
* sale and delivery
* as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

**Public safety and national security -** This includes:

* police and support staff
* Ministry of Defence civilians
* contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
* fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
* National Crime Agency staff
* those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

**Transport -** This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

# Utilities, communication and financial services - This includes:

* staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
* the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
* information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
* key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
* postal services and delivery
* payments providers
* waste disposal sectors