Edenfield C E Primary School

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the Government have taken the step of closing schools to the vast majority of pupils in order to help to stem the spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus). This decision was made at extremely short notice and we have been working hard to make plans that ensure the pupils can still take part in meaningful learning activities.

However, in order to ensure that people designated as 'key workers' (as defined by the Government) can continue to work, the Government has determined that schools should remain open as a centre of **childcare**. Attendance for this group of pupils is optional and parents should keep children away if possible. If workers think they fall within the critical category they should confirm with their employer that based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential service. As the reason for this partial closure of schools is to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, we would urge parents to make **alternative arrangements where possible**. In the words of the Government, '***the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society***'. Please help by keeping your child/ren at home if at all possible.

Schools have also been asked to remain open for pupils who are defined as 'vulnerable' according to Government-determined criteria. Attendance for this group of pupils is compulsory and you will be notified if your child is in this group. If your child does not meet any of these strict criteria, school will not be open for them until further notice.

From Monday, pupils who will not be in school will be expected to work from home. We have plans to ensure that this is regular and appropriate to the children. These plans are detailed on a separate letter which will be published on the website and sent home this afternoon. Later today, we will also be contacting those families who may be eligible for childcare over the Easter break. Again, we would urge you to keep your child(ren) at home during this challenging period, where possible, to reduce risk.

This is a decision that has been taken by the Government and is one that has been designed to prevent unnecessary social contact to help overcome the spread of Coronavirus. Please support your child/ren's learning by enabling them to carry out their learning activities that will be provided by the school.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this incredibly difficult and uncertain time. Your support is greatly valued. If you have any further queries, or would like anything to be explained in more depth, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

C. L. Garner
Headteacher