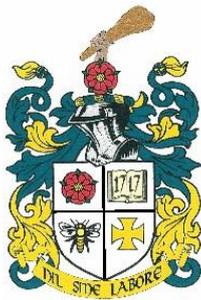


Headteacher:  
Mrs A. Chapman, MA, SFHEA, NPQH



Founded in 1717

# BAINES SCHOOL

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Ref: ACh/cpo

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Coronavirus update – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### School Opening to support vulnerable students and the children of key workers

The government has announced that every child who can be safely cared for at home should stay at home and that parents should do everything they can to ensure that children are not mixing socially. Adults should observe the same principles as far as possible. Please use this as a principle because we have many staff who are self-isolating for various reasons and we will not be able to staff the school if all the children of these key workers are in school. Teachers are also working online to plan and set work for the students who are not in school. They cannot do this effectively if they are in school supervising children. However, I am fully supportive of us providing a service that enables Key Workers to stay in work and carry out those vital roles.

The government has announced that schools need to provide supervision for priority childcare for the children of key workers and the most vulnerable children. The government has produced some guidance to support this.

### Opening for Vulnerable Students

The government has identified that these students are ones who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care plans (EHCP).

Staff at school have already contacted the families who this relates to.

### Opening for Key Workers

The government has identified the following workers as, 'Key Workers':

#### '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 nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the 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, and 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 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 COVID-19 pandemic), 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 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 COVID-19 response, as well as 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 and waste disposal sectors'.

**If one parent/carer work in these sectors, and you cannot provide safe support at home then your children are able to attend their school if you wish them to. In order to facilitate staffing and know if we have enough staff to open for the number required, we will need to run a booking system as from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.**

### **Can your child stay at home unsupervised?**

The law doesn't say an age when you can leave a child on their own, but it is an offence to leave a child alone if it places them at risk. Use your judgement on how mature your child is before you decide to leave them alone, e.g. at home.

The NSPCC says:

- children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time
- children under 16 shouldn't be left alone overnight
- babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone

You can use your judgement about how mature and responsible your child is to be left unsupervised at home.

Baines School will run a normal school day between 8.40am and 2.50pm. We will not be able to run any after school clubs beyond these times. For the first morning on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we ask that students meet in the school hall, so we can allocate a member of staff and base for them. After this first day, to ensure we have the right staffing ratios and food ordered for lunch, please ensure if you want your child to attend school, that you to tell us either via your child telling us if they will be with us the following day or please phone the school number 01253 883019 to confirm attendance the day before (Phones will be manned between 8.15am and 3.30pm).

**Students will need to wear school uniform, but they may wear trainers (as we may have the opportunity for some physical recreation). We have the same expectations for work and behaviour during these days.**

During the day, students will have access to the online learning that the other students are working on at home. The students in school will not receive taught lessons, but they will be supervised to complete their work, read, watch documentaries and they may play board games or participate in other activities. This will be dependent on the number of students and the staff supervising the day. **Please note – the guidance is for supervision and not for teaching.**

Breakfast, break and lunch will be available using the usual cashless system / free school meal allocation, however there will be a more limited menu choice than usual.

There may not be any school bus services to provide transport to or from school, so parents/carers will need to arrange their own transport. At this stage, we have not been informed about the availability of buses.

Please remember that schools across the country have closed for social distancing reasons so that we can try to reduce the face to face interaction with others which will then hopefully stop the spread of Coronavirus. Baines School is only open for students with specified needs and those who have parents/carers who are front line workers and have no supervision at home. We are sorry that this provision is only available for Baines School students so please do not drop off any child who is not a current student at our school. (We may be able to extend this offer to siblings in the future but for now, we need to establish

working and adapting to these new conditions).

In addition, **for the first week (23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020), we will provide the opportunity for those students who are in receipt of Free School Meals, who are not self-isolating to receive a food parcel, even if they are not being supervised in school.** If you would like a food parcel, please phone school and order it by 9.30am every morning. It will be a generic parcel containing the recommended food from the Local Authority guidance. This can be collected from reception between 1.20 and 1.40pm every day for the first week. Please note, we will only be able to provide food parcels to those who are eligible for Free School Meals and those who have phoned through an order by the 9.30am deadline. It is anticipated that government vouchers will be available after the first week.

Our school will be staffed on a rota basis so that we can supervise the students in school, but also support the learners who are at home by setting work on Class Charts or Google Classroom. Please remember that staff have a very difficult job in trying to manage planning, setting and giving feedback on work alongside attending school to supervise students, completing developmental work such as planning schemes of learning and making teaching resources. Many staff have young families so they may also be supporting their own family with children at home, self-isolating and may even be ill or self-isolating themselves. They cannot be expected to respond to every email or parental query they have.

It is very important that we support our community in a positive way, I am looking forward to working with the children in a more flexible way so that they can continue their education and personal development.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alchapman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Mrs Alison Chapman  
Headteacher