

# West Dartmoor Federation



Lady Modiford's C of E Primary School  
Walkhampton  
Yelverton  
Devon  
PL20 6JR  
Tel: - 01822 853277  
Email:- [Mod.admin@stcmat.org](mailto:Mod.admin@stcmat.org)

Meavy C of E Primary School  
Meavy  
Yelverton  
Devon  
PL20 6PJ  
Tel: - 01822 853270  
Email:- [Mea.admin@stcmat.org](mailto:Mea.admin@stcmat.org)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for the feedback some of you have sent in after my letter on Friday. It has been really helpful as were the positive comments, once again these are appreciated by the whole team.

Frustratingly for both you and us, after being told to open both sites and sending the letter out to you on Friday, the Department for Education (DfE) updated its guidance for critical workers on Friday evening at about 5.30pm, and advised parents and carers of children who are eligible for a school place that they should keep them at home if at all possible. It now states:

“Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (Covid-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors ... Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can,”

All the media have been highlighting the increase in numbers of pupils at school compared with the first lockdown and I know many of you and members of staff have been really concerned about this. This seems to have prompted a shift in the guidance.

So, I apologise for emailing on a Sunday but I thought I would further clarify the situation for parents/carers and all of us at the schools.

- Both schools will be open on Monday for children of critical workers and ‘vulnerable’ children.
- Regardless of whether you are a classed as a critical worker or not, children should **stay at home** unless there are *absolutely* no safe alternatives to sending them to school.
- We will constantly review how this is working and keep you all informed of any changes.

Although we do agree the best place for children to learn is in school, our priority will remain to keep everyone as safe as possible. If this means less pupils having face to face lessons, we will endeavour to make the online learning as accessible as possible for everyone. It will never be the same as being in class but if it helps reduce the transmission of this terrible virus then it is a price which must be paid.

One of the questions you asked is if critical workers can still send their children in when needed rather than full time. The answer is simple, yes please. We have all the questionnaires from last week and we do not need these updating and can work from our initial lists.

Once again, I apologise from the confusion this has caused and, although it doesn't help much, you can imagine how frustrated myself and all my team are as well. However, we will continue to work hard to deliver the best education we can for the children, keep everyone as safe as we can and keep going with your help, understanding and continued support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Marilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'G'.

Executive Headteacher

West Dartmoor Federation  
(Meavy & Lady Modifords)