



Wickham Church of England Primary School

Buddens Road, Wickham, Fareham, Hants. PO17 5HU

Tel: 01329 833065 Fax: 01329 834969

Email: adminoffice@wickham-primary.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Graham Cutter Deputy Head: Mrs Loren Way



23rd March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

The situation regarding coronavirus continues to escalate and is becoming more worrying by the day.

You will be aware that we have put a number of measures in place to minimise the risk to your children and also to our staff. The staff are working exceptionally hard to ensure that social distancing advice is being followed but this is a currently a challenge with the high number of children who are using our provision.

The Government guidance on social distancing can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

As a school, we have been working hard to find the best approach in line with government guidance which has, in itself, been changing by the day. The most up to date guidance states:

...And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

*...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.*

*So, if you are **not critical staff / key worker** then your child **cannot come to school** and as a family, you need to significantly reduce your social contact with others, especially if you or your relatives or members of your household are "vulnerable."*

If a family has only one key worker, critical to the fight against the spread of COVID-19, we ask that they consider the possibility of the other parent providing child care. If both parents are key workers, they should still exhaust every possible option for keeping their children at home by altering work patterns or working from home in some circumstances.

We understand that there will be parents who have done this and, as an absolute last resort, have sent their child/ren into school during this time.

If your child is classed as 'vulnerable', then the government guidance asks that the school and parents consider whether the child/ren can safely have their needs met at home. The staff will happily discuss this with you if childcare at home is a possibility. The guidance recognises that, 'Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.'

I realise this is asking a lot of families at an extremely difficult and worrying time, but as a school, we have a responsibility to our staff, to the children who will need to be on site but who should still be social distancing as much as possible, and to the wider community as a whole.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Cutter
Headteacher