



Wickham Church of England Primary School

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22nd March 2020

Information for key workers & parents of vulnerable children

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are looking forward to providing childcare to support to our vulnerable children and children whose parents' work is critical to the COVID-19 response. Myself and my team feel privileged to be able to play our part in supporting the country at this time.

The national picture is changing rapidly and over the weekend the emphasis on the need to reduce the spread of COVID-19 has become apparent. The pressure on the NHS at this time is enormous and this will increase further over the next few weeks. It is our responsibility to protect ourselves and reduce the cross contamination by employing the social distancing guidance given by the government so that we do not add to the pressure on the NHS and we keep our families safe.

It is important that we keep numbers at school as low as possible. This provision should only be a last resort for those parents who have absolutely no other choice during the times they are required to work. It should not be used for those who have someone who can look after the children but would rather not. If you are able to keep your child at home, you should. The decision to close schools was taken to reduce the spread of the virus, if the provision is not used as an absolute last measure then the whole process becomes pointless.

Gavin Williamson ✓
@GavinWilliamson

You should only send your child to school on Monday if you have to, because your work is critical to our COVID-19 response.

If you are able to keep your child at home, you should.

[#StayHomeSaveLives](#)

STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

save lives

The categories of critical workers are quite broad and open to interpretation. A sensible way to gauge whether it is essential that you access childcare in school, is to ask yourself, if the country goes into lock down would it be essential for me to go to work every day?

We have put a number of strategies in place to protect your children and the staff whilst in school and these will be more effective the lower the numbers we have. Much of this information was shared in a letter sent to those of you who returned childcare forms on Friday and were subsequently offered a place. There are a few additional ways that parents can support these measures. We respectfully ask that:

- today you talk to your child about how they can keep themselves safe by not touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth and about the importance of regular handwashing. Check that they have an effective method for washing their hands and that they know they should be washing them for at least 20 seconds.
- you remind them that if they should cough or sneeze into a tissue or the nook of their arm and then dispose of the tissue in the bin and wash their hands immediately.
- children wash their hands thoroughly before coming into school. They will be asked to wash their hands again upon arrival.
- your child wears a clean set of clothes to school every day. It is also recommended that those clothes are washed as soon as possible.
- your child's hair is washed daily.
- any drinks brought to the hub are in disposable containers (where possible) and lunchboxes are wiped externally with an antibacterial spray/wipe before they bring them to school. Please consider ordering your child a school meal to minimise the risk from items coming in and out of school
- you and your child/ren (where possible) stay 2m apart from other parents and children when waiting at the start or beginning of the day. Children should come straight into the building independently when they arrive and we will dismiss them promptly at the end of the day.
- you ensure that your child only brings essential items to school (lunchbox and coat). No toys please.

The minibus will transport children to and from Knowle but please consider transporting your child/ren yourself if you are at all able to. This will further minimise risk.

It is an uncertain and worrying time for all of us but if we work together we can reduce the risks to all. Rest assured that the staff will be vigilant with the measures we put in during the day to protect your children.

If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 whilst in school, we will isolate them from the other children and contact you to collect them as soon as possible. They will be expected to observe the 14-day self-isolation period and will be welcome to return once the self-isolation period has passed.

Thank you for your support and co-operation with this very important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Graham Cutter
Headteacher