



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

www.wickham-primary.co.uk

4th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Prime Ministers announcement this evening, I am writing to inform you that school will be closed to **all pupils on Tuesday 5th January** to enable necessary planning to **open for critical worker and vulnerable children from Wednesday 6th January 2021**. We will be closed to the majority of pupils, until further notice, with immediate effect.

Teachers have uploaded their emergency work packs to Google Classroom/Tapestry and these will be available for the children to access from tomorrow morning. Teachers are currently preparing for their resources, in-line with our remote learning plan, and these will be uploaded ready for children to access from Wednesday morning. Please contact the school office tomorrow if you require a reminder of your child's login details.

The school will continue to offer face-to-face education to vulnerable and critical worker children. The definition of vulnerable and critical worker children can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We will contact parents of those children who we believe are classed as vulnerable to confirm a place for your child/children tomorrow (Tuesday). You do not need to contact us unless you believe that your child/children meet the definition of a vulnerable child and you have not received a phone call by 3pm tomorrow.

If you believe that your child/children fit the definition of a critical worker then please complete the following online form by **10am on Tuesday 5th January**: [Critical Worker Form](#).

Whilst we recognise that many families may have a need for childcare, we are required to restrict our provision to those children described in the official guidance, in order to keep the numbers in school as low as possible. School closure is primarily a means of limiting the spread of coronavirus in educational settings and the wider community. Please only send your child/children to school if they are classed as vulnerable or you are a critical worker and have no appropriate alternative for childcare.

In the event that the number of critical worker children is too large for us to safely open, we will prioritise in the following order:

1. Pupils where either parent is a member of NHS frontline staff e.g. doctors and nurses not working from home
2. Pupils where both parents are on the critical worker list/single parent critical worker and are not working from home
3. Pupils where one parent is on the critical worker list, is not working at home and there is no other adult in the house to support with childcare
4. Pupils where one parent is on the critical worker list

We may need to contact you and/or your employer should we have any queries regarding your critical worker status. If you do not hear from us by 3pm tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January) then please assume that your

child/children have been allocated a place. We will send further communication to parents of vulnerable and critical worker children tomorrow regarding the arrangements for the return to school on **Wednesday 6th January**. Details on free school meal provision will also be sent to those families who are eligible in due course.

Please accept my apologies for the late notice and for any disruption that this sudden change to our plans has caused you and your family. It would not be possible for us to gather the information and form our vulnerable/critical worker groups before the start of the school day tomorrow, hence the need to close to all children to allow us to plan. We do not receive any prior notification of school closure from the government and receive the news at the same time as the rest of the population.

Please be reassured that, as always, we are on the end of the phone should you require any support. Thank you all for your support and understanding. Until we can come together once again as a community, please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Cutter', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Graham Cutter
Headteacher