



Cowes Primary School

Right to Learn Right to be Safe Right to be Respected

Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Praetig

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Dear Parent/Carers,

Coronavirus Update Friday 20th March 09:00

The majority of the following has been taken directly for the Government website:

The government has asked parents to keep their children at home, **wherever possible**, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend**.

It is important to underline that 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.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

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The list of Key Workers has now been published by the Government:

- **Health and Social Care Workers**, including those working as part of the supply chain
- **Education and Childcare Workers** – including those in Nurseries
- **Local and Government Workers** - 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.
- **Workers involved in Food and Other Necessary Goods** - those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods.
- **Public Safety and National Security** - including, emergency service workers, prison and probation staff and armed forces.
- **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.
- **Transport** - this includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

If you believe that you are a 'Key Worker' and wish your child to come to school, please contact the school office **as soon as possible but by 3pm today**, at the latest. You will be asked to provide some confirmation of your employment; if you have any queries, please contact the school.

Information regarding Free School Meal provision will be sent out later today, once we have further guidance.

Once again I thank you for your on-going understanding in these challenging times.

Kind Regards

Mrs S Praetig
Headteacher