

20/3/20

Dear parents and carers

I am following up this morning's communication around children for whom the school will be open next week.

A reminder of the key principles from the government guidance:

- Every child who can safely be cared for at home should be
- Schools are closed to all except for children of workers in critical jobs and vulnerable children
- If you think you are a critical worker then you should please confirm with your employer that your specific role is necessary for the continuation of the essential public service
- Schools remain safe places for children
- The fewer children in school the lower the risk that the virus can spread

A number of students have said today that they intend to come to school regardless of the guidance. We need to be able to allocate our available resources appropriately and greatly appreciate parents' support in this.

I hope you will understand therefore that we will ask critical worker parents to send in a letter with their child on Monday to confirm that they fall into that category. We appreciate the enthusiasm of children to keep coming to school, but we need to make sure that we are supporting our wider community and the wider government strategy as best we can.

We know from contact with critical worker parents that some will not need to send their children into school every day, and we appreciate your flexibility to help us provide the best support we can.

Plan for those students who meet the criteria to attend school

- The structure of the school day will be as normal.
- Students should attend in uniform.
- Students should bring their PE kit.
- Normal expectations apply with our ABC levels
- The canteen will be open, although students may of course bring in a packed lunch as normal.
- We will aim to provide the best experience we can under the circumstances and given our capacity.
- We have plans in place but we know that they may need to adapt as time develops. We will keep parents informed directly.

Additional hygiene measures will be put into place for students in school. Please follow all government advice around symptoms and self-isolation. If there are any concerns then the child should not attend school.

Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding in these challenging circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Dennett

Headteacher

Fitzharrys School

Government advice

Handwashing advice

The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

Watch this short NHS film for guidance:

<https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

Please note, we are currently experiencing high volumes of calls. We appreciate your patience at this time and apologise for any wait that you may experience. To ensure that we answer your calls as quickly as possible, we have now extended our opening hours to cover weekends and are increasing the number of call handlers available to answer your calls.

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the hotline.

Where to find the latest information

Updates on COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Guidance for educational settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Guidance for social or community care and residential settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-social-or-community-care-and-residential-settings-on-covid-19>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Latest Department for Education information:

<https://twitter.com/educationgovuk>

<https://www.facebook.com/educationgovuk/>