

DRIFFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

23.03.20

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope you and your children are well and keeping safe. I would like to thank you all for heeding the advice that was sent out last week regarding the school closures. As a result, we have had a smaller number of children than expected in school today which is very reassuring.

PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN AND OUR STAFF SAFE

The situation in this country is clearly becoming more serious very quickly, and I know that cases of confirmed Covid-19 are set to rise sharply. With that in mind may I remind you all of the following:

- **School is not officially open.** We have a skeleton staff who will be here to provide supervision for the children of those parents/carers who have no other option than to send their child to school because they are an essential key worker and there is no-one at home to look after their child.
- The dedication of my staff in offering their help has been fantastic. For as long as we can, we hope to be able to have available the provision we are currently offering.
- As Headteacher I am responsible for the welfare of the children, but also of my staff and consequently their families. It may be that some staff will not be able to work, despite their best intentions. We are working on a rota basis but ultimately I am mindful of the Government advice that we should all be aiming for social distancing to minimise the risk of spreading or catching the virus.

Gov.uk advice to parents and carers

If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why 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.

Please don't send your child to school if:

- Your employer has not confirmed that you have to be at work and cannot be working remotely from home

- You, or a partner is working from home.
- They could be looked after by a separated or step-parent
- If you are working part time, please only send your child on the required days

If you haven't already seen the diagram below, please look. It clearly shows that social distancing is essential in slowing down, and eventually halting, this very serious illness. The sooner this happens, the sooner we can all go back to resuming a more normal existence.

Asking children to not come to school is the last thing I want to do as an educator, however given the unprecedented situation we find ourselves in, I feel it is not only my duty but the responsible thing to do right now.

Thank you all and I wish you well over the coming days and weeks. Do get in touch if you need to speak to us about anything. Meanwhile, TAKE CARE.

Linda Laird

