



Chawton CE Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs. Sarah Goldsworthy

20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

As I have mentioned in my previous email today, the list of key workers who are needed and required to continue to work when others are no longer expected to be has now been released.

It is still, however very clear that: **'If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be'**. This is a *very* serious time and if you are not a key worker please do move away from thinking that children are best placed to be at school, the guidance is clear that this is **not** the case and to protect the whole country we should self- distance as much as we can in every way.

We will be sending out emails as soon as we can to confirm places within our 'one class school' being set up by staff for next week. There will be hot meals provided if required, and we will support the children in completing the virtual learning their class teachers have set, as well as getting the children outside as much as we can.

For those who are teaching at home I urge you to remember that we can all only do our best. My staff are brilliant professionals who are experts in primary education. You will be juggling home life, your own work commitments and for many, a variety of ages of children. Teachers switch things around on a lesson by lesson basis and you will probably need to as well.

The timetable is there to help you keep the *children* in a routine, busy and happy but not there to cause *you* stress! We have planned an 'Age related task' for the class and you need to know that some children may need help, whereas others would benefit from further challenge.

We are all working in emergency conditions. Use the websites for extra help and don't be afraid to adapt things as you need to. You will be doing the best you can. The class teachers will respond to your queries through ClassDojo, or through the Admin Office email. We will not be on the phone to tutor but if you get really stuck email or send in a photo of the problem and we will try to help.

For those children whose parents are **both** key workers or single parents, there will be little choice but to send them into school and we will try our best to make this as supportive as possible. However, if only one of you is a key worker, your children are best placed at home with you. It is where they are safest at the moment and the fewer children making the journey to

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*'Be strong and **courageous**; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'* Joshua 1: 5-9

*'If we walk in the light as He himself is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another...'* 1 John 1-7



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school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

As I said previously, the government have been very clear that the **school places are for necessity**. I will also be trying to keep my staff and their dependents well and some very difficult decisions have to be made to protect all of us.

In school today we are celebrating being together and we are trying to celebrate the many positives we all have. We remain clear with our message to children that we hope to be back to school as soon as possible, but that no one can say when this will be. We want the children to stay positive and for our children, and us, we know that school life is our normality and we all need to stay as positive as possible.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarah Goldsworthy

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