



Chawton CE Primary School
Chawton
Alton
Hampshire GU34 1SG
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Headteacher: Mrs. Sarah Goldsworthy

20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, a heartfelt thank you to all who are working hard to support our community and the most vulnerable in our society; especially those in the NHS. As you will have no doubt have seen, the guidance from the DfE giving us clarity about key workers was published just before midnight yesterday.

National Guidance 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>

‘The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. 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.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors: these are outlined in the link above. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.’

*‘Let all that you do, be done in **love**.’ 1 Corinthians 16:14*

*‘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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Foremost, I believe we have to remember that we all need to do the right thing for the greater good of society; accommodating the greatest need and limiting social interaction and therefore, the spread of the virus – and only allowing school to stay open for those who need it the most.

Provision at Chawton CE Primary

If you have asked for provision, and on reflection, now feel that you can use alternative care please contact the school immediately on s.goldsworthy@chawton.hants.sch.uk

Currently, we have no more than 5 children who will be attending our school for the foreseeable future and Chawton CE Primary School will stay open to take care of them. However, in the near future, we may need to care for these children at another local school in the Alton cluster.

If your child is attending school, they are not required to wear school uniform. Please come dressed in suitable clothing for being outside; bring wellington boots and a waterproof and a change of clothes and trainers suitable for PE. We are able to provide hot school lunches and these will be free of charge to KS1 children and those in receipt of Free School Meals. Children in KS2 will need to pay for these as usual. The school day will start at 8.30am and will finish at 3.15pm.

Staffing

Thank you to all of you have taken the time to express your thanks, either in email, or in person. These have gone a long way to bolstering all of the staff during this difficult time.

Please remember that if you need to email a member of staff, please only do so through the adminoffice@chawton.hants.sch.uk account or through the ClassDojo messaging service. Regardless of whether the school is open, or not, I have access to the Admin Office account and I will forward any emails from parents to my staff at an appropriate time. There is an 'out of hours' facility which the staff are directed to use. Please remember to be mindful of their well-being and understanding of their health too.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my staff, who have been working tirelessly to support one another, and all of our families at this difficult time. They are an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Sarah Goldsworthy

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