

19 March 2020



**THE
COWPLAIN
SCHOOL**

Headteacher

Mr IR Gates MA NPQH

Dear Parent

The Prime Minister announced on Wednesday evening that all schools would be shut to most children from 2.30 pm on Friday 20 March until further notice. At the moment, information from the government is frustratingly limited but it has stated that from Monday 23 March only children of 'key workers,' as well as children with an EHCP or those who have a social worker, can attend school, although it is not compulsory for them to do so.

I have been waiting over 24 hours before sending you this letter for further guidance and there is still no word as to the definition of a key worker, but we believe it will include workers from the NHS, emergency services and some delivery drivers. If you believe you may be a key worker, please keep checking gov.uk and the media for clarity. I will also send this detail to you when/if I receive it.

To give us an idea of how many children of key workers we should expect in school on Monday, please could you email Mrs Simmons (amandas@cowplainschool.co.uk) asap only if you believe you work in one of those key areas and we should expect your child to attend. As above, it is up to you to decide whether to send your child and we will respect your decision. I have spent the day formulating plans for those children who will be in school and we will be in touch with you as soon as they are finalised.

As stated in my letter of 16 March we will provide resources and support for students not attending school as efficiently as we can via INSIGHT. We will use the same system currently used for Home Learning which your child accesses using his/her school login details; you will also be able to see this work on your own INSIGHT account. If you have mislaid your account details, please email office@cowplainschool.co.uk including the words "ONLINE TEACHING" in the subject line.

Teachers will attempt, as far as possible, to set work for every lesson on each child's timetable; however, it won't be possible to personalise work or always mark and return it, especially if teachers are sick, self-isolating or looking after children or sick relatives, so please ask your child to keep work they produce until we return. Mrs Clemas also wrote to you earlier in the week with details of more generic online activities your child can complete in the meantime. We do not know how long this will continue and setting work remotely for a period of time is unprecedented and presents many challenges; we would therefore appreciate your support and patience. If you have no access to IT, please contact us and we will supply a pack of work.

The Cowplain School safeguarding team will continue to support all our families as best we can; should you require support, please email Serena Williams (serena.williams@cowplainschool.co.uk), Mr Simmons (m.simmons@cowplainschool.co.uk) or Mr Smart (s.smart@cowplainschool.co.uk), who will forward your enquiry to the relevant Pastoral Leader.

The government also announced that all exams this year will be cancelled. At this point, I have no more information than that but I want to state that I personally feel very sorry for all our wonderful Year 11 students who have worked so hard towards their exams. I will of course be in touch with parents should I receive any more information.

We are also expecting more information about how we can support those children who currently qualify for free school meals. Again, I will write further should I receive that. Again, the information from central government is vague.

Finally, I want to wish you and your family well and want you to know that we are here to support you as much as possible until school returns to normal.

Yours sincerely

Mr I R Gates
Headteacher

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