



THE COWPLAIN SCHOOL

Headteacher

Mr IR Gates MA NPQH

20 March 2020

Dear Parent

Further to the letter I sent you yesterday, the government finally published its list of 'key workers' at midnight last night! A link to that list is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We are grateful to all of those people who are looking after us all. In return, as I outlined yesterday, school colleagues are also going to take the responsibility to provide provision for the children of those key workers. It is critical to note, however, that this provision should only be taken up if there is no other alternative, with the guidance stating:

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.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

It is very important that we all keep in mind the balance we are trying to achieve at Cowplain, between a sensible and proportional response to the crisis, by social distancing as much as possible, with continuing to provide an educational service. As the guidance states, only children of key workers plus those who are vulnerable, who cannot be cared for at home, should attend school.

Therefore, as my previous letter stated, please let us know by emailing Amanda Simmons (amandas@cowplainschool.co.uk) if you are a key worker under the government guidance and you wish your child to attend school on Monday. I will write to those who have indicated their child will be in school later in the day with details of the provision we can provide, which will be generally follow the format of a normal school day.

For all other children, please follow the guidance about how to access work via INSIGHT, that I provided yesterday and earlier in the week.

Yours sincerely

Mr I R Gates
Headteacher