



Crowlands Primary School

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19th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please bear with us during this difficult and worrying time for us all. I know you will have many questions and concerns and I hope to be able to do my best to support you. I am currently waiting on guidance from the Local Authority and will update you later in the day.

It is with a very heavy heart that we must respond to the latest Government news. As I am sure many of you are aware, all schools in England will be closing as of Friday afternoon. This really is such a difficult time and I cannot believe I am actually writing this.

Crowlands will continue to be open, for those who wish to attend, today and Friday. At this time the most important thing is to keep your child and family members safe. Later today we will send guidance out of how to support some home learning over the next couple of weeks. We will have more concrete access to resources when we have finalised what home learning could look like.

I appreciate that home learning is going to be difficult and you will be concerned about your child's educational development. All pupils across the country will be in the same boat and all pupils will have very different home learning experiences. Once schools reopen we will do all we can to catch pupils up and meet their next steps in learning. Most importantly at this time is your child's wellbeing and the safety of all family members.

If you believe you fall into the category that is deemed to be a 'key worker' and will be sending your child to school from Monday we need to know as soon as possible. Please send us an email to office@crowlands.havering.sch.uk telling us your intention, including your job role. Unfortunately, the Government have not yet specified who falls into this category so we are awaiting further guidance and will update accordingly. Once we have a list we will be able to support you more effectively in this decision making. Please also email us if your child has an EHC Plan or a Social Worker attached to them and if you intend to keep them at home or send them to school. If you are not sure please ask. Our phonedlines I am sure will be extremely busy today so please use email as the means of communication.

Latest DfE Guidance

Current guidance has been published on 'Stay at home' for people with confirmed or possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection:

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home
- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members **must** stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill



- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- if you have coronavirus symptoms:
 - do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
 - you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you are staying at home
 - testing for coronavirus is not needed if you are staying at home
 - plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home and consider what can be done for vulnerable people in the household
 - ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home
 - wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
 - if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

The updated guidance can be found following the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19#contents>

Please be assured that as always, we will continue to prioritise the children's health and wellbeing at all times and to this end will keep you as updated as possible.

Whilst I know many of you want to know what is going on, we are only as up to date as you are in terms of information coming from the government. Staff along with yourselves are under a lot of strain at this time. We will continue to do our best and we are all very busy planning our next steps..

This continues to be a very difficult time for everyone and we certainly appreciate that you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. As always we thank you for your continued support and please so not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further.

Our staff team have been incredible at this time and as always we will pull together as a community to get through what is going to be a tricky time for us all.

Stay safe and take care, I really am here if you need anything.

Yours Sincerely,

H McClenaghan

H McClenaghan
Executive Headteacher

