

Tuesday 24th March 2020

Dear Parent

Good afternoon. I hope everyone is having as good of a day as is possible under the circumstances. I continue to think of you all each day whether you are in school or working and learning at home you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

As well as today's letter for parents, I have written a separate letter (attached) for the children. I would be most grateful if you will help your child or children access this letter and give them my very best wishes.

I appreciate there is a lot of information in these letters. We aim to keep it relevant and concise and are grateful for the time taken to read all information carefully.

As I am sure many of you did, I watched the Prime Minister's address to the country last night. I am sure you will all agree these are truly unprecedented times the like of which we have never seen before.

Below is a short summary of the key latest guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do

- Stay at home
- Only go outside for food, health reasons or essential work
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Click on this link for -

[Full guidance on staying at home and away from others](#)

Trusted sources

It is really important at this time to ensure only trusted sources of information are used. We strongly recommend families take information from;

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

A Message from North Yorkshire Community Messaging



Lisa Winward, Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police, Andrew Brodie, Chief Fire Officer of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, and Julia Mulligan, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner have issued the following statement on new measures to stop spread of Coronavirus

"It is our job to keep North Yorkshire safe and we can only do that if you follow the instruction to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

"We know the vast majority of you have already been taking action to stop the spread of Coronavirus, and we thank you for those efforts. But some have not – and the crowds we saw in some parts of North Yorkshire this weekend illustrated that all too clearly.

"Now there is no ambiguity, there can be no question – if you do not need to be outside for an essential reason, to buy food or medicine or to exercise once a day, you must stay at home.

"Anyone who thinks this does not apply to them is putting lives at risk. North Yorkshire Police will use all powers we have to stop that, to keep us all safe and to ultimately save lives.

"Our emergency services will be here to protect you throughout this national emergency. We know these are unsettling times. They are unprecedented times. But across North Yorkshire we stand together, and together we'll get through it."

Supporting Children & their learning at home

If you have not yet had chance to look at the information on our website please do by visiting;

<http://follifootandspofforth.co.uk/home-learning/>

The structure we can offer children through activities and learning will help to give some sense of rhythm and routine however please do not feel this needs to be followed prescriptively. What all of us especially our children need at the moment is love and reassurance as we come to terms with the current reality of how we are all being asked to live.

It is really important we look out for our own and our children's physical and emotional health at this time. I know many of you have been joining Joe Wicks each morning for his daily exercise session and also finding lots of ways to keep physically active. Keep this up, it is really important.

As mentioned in communications last week the childline website-

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/> including the calm zone is a great source of information and activities for both children and parents to help deal with worrying situations.

There is also NHS advice for parents at;

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/talking-to-children-about-feelings/>

Young Minds is the UK's leading charity for children and young people's mental health. They have produced some advice for parents in relation to supporting children and young people at this time. Parents may find it helpful to visit;

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

Looking after each other

Although we are all experiencing the same situation we are doing so through our own unique contexts. Some parents will be facing this situation as individual parents, some will be trying to ensure children continue to see both parents as just two examples. I know you already are and please continue to support and look out for each other.

If we as a team can be of any help please do not hesitate to get in touch via phone or email. All contact is treated in confidence and we will do our very best to help direct or put you in touch with someone who can.

Essential Critical Workers

Following the Prime Ministers address to the nation last night it is very clear that everyone who can stay at home should do. It would seem this key message is being understood and acted upon and for that we are incredibly grateful. In anticipation of your continued support of this I thank you.

To help us manage our care provision in school we are asking parents to support us by;

1. Emailing us by 1.00pm each day to inform us that they have no other choice but to use the provision the following day. This will help hugely with only bringing in necessary numbers of staff.
2. Collect children when you are able during the day when shifts finish.

Once again, thank you for your understanding in this very difficult situation. We must do everything we can as a community to help each other and keep us safe from harm.

Easter holiday provision for key workers

We are working with the local authority to see what provision can be put in place for childcare for essential critical workers over the two week Easter holiday period - 6th – 10th April & 13th – 17th April. I fully appreciate shifts and rotas may yet be unknown and may be subject to change. If you are able to provide a sense of what might be needed this is a huge help in the planning effort taking place locally. If you are able to provide an idea please email either admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk or admin@follifoot.n-yorks.sch. We will continue to keep updated when we have more details about this.

Spofforth Year 5&6 Residential

Unsurprisingly we have received confirmation today that East Barnby outdoor learning centre will close until at least May half term. As our booking was for before this it is with much sadness that I have to inform everyone that this visit will not go ahead. Any deposits or payments made towards this will be refunded over the coming days/week or so. I know this is such a highlighted for so many children and I share what I am sure will be high levels of disappointment from families. We are considering and exploring options to provide an outdoor education experience for children should we return in enough time this school year.

Keeping In Touch

As well as letters sent via email we will use the news section of our website <http://follifootandspofforth.co.uk/> to share news. This will be non-essential 'keeping in touch' news. All critical information will continue to be sent in letters via email.

Thank you again for taking the time to read and digest the large amount of information sent. I really hope that you and your families manage to stay healthy.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Griffiths