

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent

Good afternoon. I hope your week has gone as well as possible given the context of the situation faced by us all. As we conclude a week; the sort of which was simply unimaginable only a short while ago we would like you to know that each and every family is in our thoughts and prayers.

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

Below is a short summary of the key latest guidance;



[Home](#)

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

## Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.  
[Staying at home and away from others \(social distancing\)](#)

**STAY AT HOME** 

**PROTECT THE NHS** 

 **save lives**



**Do not leave home if  
you or someone you  
live with has either:**

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough

[Check the NHS website if  
you have symptoms](#)

Click on this link for -

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

### **Community Support**

It has been amazing to see and hear how both village communities have come together to support each other during these challenging times. Both village shops are doing an amazing job in keeping us supplied and arranging support for those who are self-isolating. If you have any capacity to help out during this time please get in touch with your local shop.

### **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/>


WELCOME	VISION, MISSION AND PRINCIPLES	ADMISSIONS	INFORMATION ▾	PARENTS ▾	CURRICULUM ▾	NEWS	CONTACT
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## HOME LEARNING

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### Learning at Home



We hope the structure offered via daily contact is helping to give some sense of rhythm and routine however this does not need to be followed prescriptively if indeed at all. You will have clear sense of what your children need. We aim to support this but in no way hinder or cause concern to families at this time. Education as we know it has paused for now. If children are happy and productively engaged it does not matter if this is with ideas and suggestions from school or self/parent supported projects that allow children to explore their passions and interests.

Thank you for the pictures sent and feedback. Staff are doing their best to reply as and where appropriate. We are incredibly proud of how everyone is dealing with the challenges of the context.

### **Emotional Wellbeing**

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/>

### **Essential Critical Workers**

Following the Prime Ministers address to the nation on Monday it is very clear that everyone who can stay at home should do.

This has been further reinforced by Stuart Carlton Director of Children and Young Peoples Services in North Yorkshire who stated;

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- 2. Keyworkers must only send children to school when they are actually on rota working for the employer, not at other times.**
- 3. Keyworkers should not send them to school if their partner, or similar, is able to look after them.**
- 4. There is an expectation that if keyworkers are working from home the default should be to keep children there, rather than send them to school.**

As more companies scale back operations and allow staff to work from home we ask that particular attention is given to the third point made above.

Overall 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 hard to try to arrange care provision for essential critical workers over the Easter Holidays. We have emerging plans to do this at Spofforth School . We hope to finalise arrangements towards in the early part of next week.

To successfully achieve this we need as clear a picture as possible of numbers over this period. If you know you will or think you might need this provision please can you either speak to a member of staff at drop off or pick up or email [admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk) before 5.00pm on Monday 30th March. As mentioned above this should only be if there are no other alternatives including a partner or similar (even if they are working from home) to look after children.

### **Keeping In Touch**

As we have done since the start of the situation we will continue to keep families updated as needed. As we settle into a new rhythm and pattern this is likely to be twice a week. 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.

### **And finally (almost).....**

It may feel like this situation has been going on for a good length of time and it is unclear when things will begin to change. We recognise how tiring it can be making the necessary changes. We are here to support so please get in touch if you think we can.

A final thought however,.....



**And finally (definitely final this time).....**

From each and every one of us...



Your patience, understanding and support have been amazing and we are very grateful for the kindness shown as we navigate this incredibly challenging situation. We hope you all enjoy a restful weekend.

I really hope that you and your families manage to stay healthy.

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Griffiths