

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents

Good afternoon. May I start by saying a huge thank you to everyone for their support today as we work through this challenging final day preparing for a completely new way of working.

As part of this new way of working Spofforth school will be open next week for vulnerable children and the children of essential key workers. There is more detail later in this letter around arrangements for this. We desperately want to and will play our part at this time of national crisis supporting children and their families. We want a sustainable local solution that ideally will last for the duration of this crisis.

The government has produced Guidance for schools, colleges and local authorities on maintaining educational provision in which the key worker list and other important information can be found. Please read in full the document via the link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Please read this in full as it contains a lot of very important information. I have highlighted some of the key essential points below.

'The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.'

'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.'

'That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.'

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

As mentioned above we want to play our part and sustain this for as long as possible which means managing numbers at a level that can be safely supervised by a skeleton staff.

As local authority maintained schools if we are unable to sustain our local arrangement the decision would be taken to close the school and the duty of care will return to the Local Authority who will direct parents to another school where provision can be accessed.

Many thanks for to everyone who has followed the steps below;

- Read the key worker list carefully to assess if you are classed as a key worker
- If you believe you are contact your line manager and ask them to confirm this in an email to yourself
- Contact us vi or admin@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk with your line managers confirmation and if you ca give us an idea of which days you will need to access provision on
- Only use this provision on the days you genuinely need it.

If you have not been in touch yet please do as soon as possible even if you are yet to get confirmation from line managers.

Early details of practical arrangements for children attending school next week are;

- Only attend if you have received confirmation from us – this may be in writing or via a phone call
- Initially we will be operating during school hours only (8.55 – 3.20)
- Please can all children bring a packed lunch. We are currently working on provision for children in receipt of free school meals and will update further when we can.
- Please can all children wear their school uniform including school shoes and bring PE kit.
- When we ring the bell please can all children line up where Class Four usually line up. For children from Follifoot if you are not sure where this is please do not worry there will be lots of familiar staff to help show you where this is.

Many thanks for your understanding as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times. Take care and stay safe. Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Griffiths Headteacher.