



Whitstable Junior School

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Dear Parents & Carers,

A quick update on where we are now. Since Friday, parents and carers have responded to the Government's advice and as a result, we have much smaller numbers of children in school and we have been able to send more staff home. This has helped alleviate much anxiety and has also helped to keep anyone who has to be in school safe too; thank you. If we need to reduce numbers further the absolute priority will be given to NHS frontline staff.

The latest guidance on school places changed on Friday even for key workers. Where possible, keep your children at home, for their safety and the safety of others. The guidance we followed was retweeted by the Education Secretary yesterday:

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

Schools are open tomorrow for children of key workers and vulnerable families. Before you send your child to school tomorrow...

THINK	DO I REALLY NEED TO SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?	REMEMBER
Am I really a key worker and is my job absolutely ESSENTIAL to the national interest?	Can I work from home? Can my partner work from home? Can I take annual leave? Can I change my shift pattern? Can I work part time? Does my child have any underlying health conditions which put them at RISK ?	Your child is SAFER AT HOME . Teachers are SAFER AT HOME . Some staff are older members of our society and more prone to infection. Some staff have underlying health conditions and are in the high risk category. Some staff have family members who are high risk and vulnerable. Some staff have anxiety.

Support for families of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)

We have contacted families eligible for FSM and they have been emailed or posted a voucher to account for the meals that would have been available this term. The vouchers can only be spent on groceries. We will issue the next set of vouchers at the beginning of Term 5 unless the Government has set up another way you can receive this entitlement.

Home Learning

Do what you can. We know you are juggling providing support for your children and working from home. The school website has plenty to keep you going and I will keep you informed of the Google Classroom platform we are setting up ready for the start of Term 5.

Take care, we will update regularly as guidance changes.

Kind regards,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

