



Gatten & Lake Primary School
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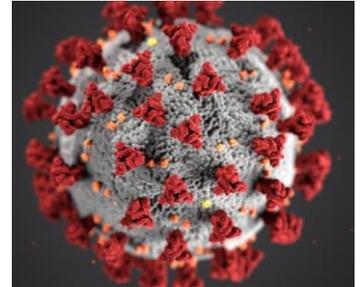
Headteacher – Mrs Rebecca Day

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

NEWSFLASH
22/03/2020

Good Afternoon Everyone,

As I sit and write this newsletter, I'm sure there will be even more information available and further developments, as things in our country and world around us are changing all so quickly. However, what I intend to do, is to keep you as up to date as possible with the current school situation.



From Friday 20th March 2020, **school will be closed until further notice.**

Boris Johnson made this announcement on Wednesday 18th March. However, since then there has been advice around what circumstances and who qualifies to be cared for by the school community the school closure. We feel, as a school community, it is a very important role. However, we WILL and MUST stick to the guidelines.

Friday, was a very strange day at Gatten and Lake – as it must have been in schools up and down the country. As the closure of schools to all but a minority of children is indefinite, the children have potentially thought this could be their last day in school this academic year. I very much hope that the current epidemic will not last as long as we're planning for. The Government's guidance to schools is very clear and is aimed at limiting the number of children attending as far as they possibly can, in order to stop the spread of coronavirus and the associated disease, COVID-19.

The office staff and Family Liaison Officer have worked incredibly hard, to try to establish the number of children that we need to cater for from Monday. There has been – quite understandably – much confusion, particularly about who is classified as a key worker, and I thought it would be useful for parents to see what is proposed by the Government. I have printed below the principles and clarification that schools have been asked to work to but in short the message is: **Children can only attend school if it is absolutely essential. If one adult is a key worker AND there is no-one else able to care for the children they can be in school. This may be variable days dependent on shift patterns etc, which we are mindful of.** Vulnerable children can also be catered for and discussions around this have already taken place with those that qualify.

Guidelines:

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 below. 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.**

Therefore, please follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category; such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you **cannot** keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

As you can see, the Government's key message is that children should be safe and that as many as possible should avoid attending school. The staff at Gatten and Lake remain dedicated to enabling this and to keeping the wider community as safe as possible, by following Government guidance as closely as possible. The teaching staff are working incredibly hard to provide daily learning for the children so they have the structure of the day still. **It is vital we know if you fall into one of the above categories and if there is no other means of finding care for your child.**

We will continue to contact you, via text messaging and email, to keep you up to date as this unprecedented situation unfolds and to support the children's learning whilst not at school.

Actions school continue to take with regards to Coronavirus (COVIC-19)

As per the advice from the government, the school has taken the following actions for infection control:

- Putting up/refreshing coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school
- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances: before leaving home; on arrival at school; after using the toilet; after breaks and sporting activities; before eating any food or snacks; before leaving school; and on arriving home
- Ensuring that soap dispensers are available in every classroom and in toilets throughout the school
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
- Using SCARF (Safety, caring, achievement, resilience, friendship) materials to educate the children – whether the education be at home or school
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual, including our contract cleaners completing additional cleaning in the middle of the day.
- Calling NHS 111 if someone becomes unwell and isolating any unwell people in a separate room and of course contacting parents and carers
- Advising people to seek advice of the government website if returning from abroad from specified countries before returning to school.

Emergency School Meal Menu for the week beginning 23.03.2020:

Please remember school meals cost **£2.05** a day or **£10.25** a week. All payments for meals from Y3 to Y6 via school money please. All children in Reception, Year One and Year Two are entitled to a free school meal every day, if they are at school due to being a dependent to a key worker.

	Main meal Option	Jacket Potato
Monday	Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Mixed Salad, Sweet Corn	Jacket Potato with (Cheese/Beans/Tuna)
Tuesday	Sausage Roll, Wedges, Mixed Salad, Vegetables	Jacket Potato with (Cheese/Beans/Tuna)
Wednesday	Macaroni Cheese, Seasonal Vegetables, Mixed Salad	Jacket Potato with (Cheese/Beans/Tuna)
Thursday	Roast Chicken & Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Sweetcorn, Mixed Salad	Jacket Potato with (Cheese/Beans/Tuna)
Friday	Fish Fingers & Chips, Baked Beans, Mixed Salad	Jacket Potato with (Cheese/Beans/Tuna)

Daily Packed Lunch Option for any child eligible for Free School Meals to collect from school daily.

Sandwich with a filling of either: Cheese / Ham /Tuna	Cake or Cookie	Apple, Cucumber sticks, Carrot sticks
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Collection of packed lunches for all FSM children, will be in line with safeguarding and safer working practices. Therefore, entry to the school site to eat these is not permitted.

Orders need to be placed at school each morning by **10am**, unless a rolling order is established, as these need to be prepared on site daily.

Collection of the packed lunch by the parent/carer of the child will be at **11:30am**. Please wait at the front of the school, outside of the office but maintaining social distancing protocols.

Uniform

Uniform will be required for children attending school. This way people don't need to worry about home learning clothes each day and they may not be in plentiful supply. This will also help to keep the structure for the children.

Working from home routines

I would strongly advise, that parents and carers work with children to adopt a clear approach to working from home from the very first day.

This should include:

- A set place to complete school work - age appropriate of course. This space should be used to build the structure and of course, should be free from distraction such as the television or telephones.
- A set time period to begin and end activities – either in one session or with breaks built into the day.
- Getting dressed before beginning work - this helps everyone home working.
- Staff will monitor completed work and will be feeding back to the children.
- We will inform you if work is not being completed.

A separate letter will be emailed to you regarding working at home and how work is structured, set and responded to. We want to ensure this is all clear to avoid inaccurate information being given. We are all working hard to establish this new way of teaching and learning structure – please remember to ensure you are able to log onto your Purple Mash and DoJo platforms.



<u>Do</u>	<u>Don't</u>
😊 Be kind and helpful	😞 Hurt anybody
😊 Work hard	😞 Waste time
😊 Look after everything	😞 Waste or damage things
😊 Listen to people	😞 Interrupt
😊 Be honest	😞 Cover up the truth

School Rules:

We know that many homes have rules and boundaries and these will be in place during this period of time. But a few people have asked... so I thought I'd update the language we use in the school rules, so we can reinforce the positive messages about being kind and helpful to people, looking after things (especially during this time), listening to people, being honest and working hard.

Please remember we are here to help if we can – contact info is at the bottom of the newsletter.

NHS and School Nursing:

The NHS 0-19 Public health team including Health Visitors and School Nurses will continue to be available via our duty desk:

Tel: 821388

Email: www.0-19dutydesk@nhs.net

We have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/IOWPHTEAM/>

We recommend that parents and young people have a look at these websites for general health advice.

<https://what0-18.nhs.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/>

School Contact Information:

School will be contactable during this period and during key worker opening times. If there is a slight delay in our response, this will be due to us working with a skeleton staff in school.

Telephone number: 01983 869910 or in any emergency 07399 815187

Email: admin@gattenlakepri.iow.sch.uk

I am thinking of each and everyone of the children, parents, carers and staff during this turbulent time and wish to send my love, well wishes and support to you all. Please do not hesitate to make contact if I can help you at all.

Kindest Regards, Rebecca Day – Headteacher