

Ormesby Village Infant School

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Friday March 20th 2020

Dear Parents

Many thanks for your patience and understanding as we continuously update you regarding the schools and the coronavirus situation. This letter contains the most up to date information so far, so please read it carefully.

- The school will close today for the majority of pupils. You have received/will receive regular communications from teachers regarding work to do at home/any other information depending on how long the schools remain closed.
- School will open on Monday ONLY for pupils whose parent/parents are key workers and CANNOT be safely cared for at home by another parent/carer who is not a key worker. If you are a key worker and want your child to attend school from Monday you MUST complete the questionnaire that will be emailed to you with this letter and sent home today with your child if they are in school. This needs to be brought into school on Monday by you/your child. Please indicate on the space at the bottom of the form how many days each week your child will attend, if you have this information available. This information needs to be updated regularly with the school offices.

BEFORE you complete the questionnaire you MUST look at the links below to determine that you are a key worker. The government has been very clear that children should **only come to school, even if you are a key worker, if your child cannot be cared for safely at home.** It is not clear yet what schools will do if the number attending exceeds 20%, which the government has stated is a reasonable percentage to reduce the risk of further spread of the virus. We want to support the nation's effort by keeping the schools open for as long as is necessary. This means that we need to operate with smaller teams of staff on the premises, on a rota basis, so that we can replace staff if others become ill or have to self-isolate. Therefore, we only expect you to send children to school if you have to do so. **We do not expect you to send them to school on days that you do not work, if you are part time, or if a parent/carer in the house is not a key worker.** Many thanks for supporting us to keep everyone healthy who is working at the schools.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>



- **We have just been informed that infant school children who are not eligible for the pupil premium, but who would have received a free school meal through the universal free school meals offer, will now have to pay for a school lunch from Monday if they attend school. If you would like your child to have a school meal, the price is £2.30 per day. Please send in lunch money in a clearly named envelope. Please note that Norse will be providing one hot meal/pick and mix each day only.**
- If your child receives the pupil premium and therefore is entitled to a free school meal, and is required to stay at home, please let the school offices know on Monday morning, by 10.00am, if you would like them to have this free meal while the schools are closed. The school kitchen will provide a packed lunch for them, which you can collect from the junior school office at 12.00 each day. If you would like them to have a free lunch, but you are unable to get to the school to collect it, please let us know so that we can try to make alternative arrangements.
- Please remember that even if your child does still attend school you still need to follow government guidelines on coronavirus. If your child has a cough and/or high temperature he/she must not attend school and the entire family must self-isolate for 14 days.
- You must still inform the school offices if your child is absent for any reason and we are expecting them to be in school.

On Monday, if your child comes to school because you are a key worker, please go as normal to usual classrooms at both schools. These children should bring with them the fully completed questionnaire and wear school uniform as normal. Once we have a clearer idea of how many children we expect to attend, on average, we will let you know where we want children to go when they arrive at school. Please be aware that the children in school will not be ‘taught’ as previously, but will be engaging in work that children are being asked to do at home, as well as other activities that will be planned to keep them occupied, safe and happy. They will be in mixed classes and there will be different adults in school depending on the rotas for each week.

Please remember that what we can provide, and for how long, depends on how many staff can attend the schools, to ensure children’s safety. This will potentially change on a day by day basis, so check for school texts/emails regularly. The most crucial message – DO NOT send your child to school unless you have to do so!

Again, please take care of all your loved ones.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Bates

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