

Kingsway Infant School

North Approach, Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 0ES.

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Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sorry to say that in light of our current situation with confirmed cases of Coronavirus, Kingsway Infant School will be fully closed after today for at least two weeks. We are being supported by the Local Authority who in turn are liaising with Public Health England to organise alternative provision for our key worker children. We will advise you of where this might be as soon as we know. Please watch our website for immediate updates just in case our email crashes as it did yesterday.

EMERGENCY CHILDCARE

Late last night the government released guidance on keeping schools open. It is clear that the purpose of keeping schools open is to ensure that there is childcare for those whose work is critical in the fight to minimise the potentially devastating impact of COVID-19. With this in mind I would like to draw your attention to this statement in part of the guidance:

'As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. And 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. 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.'

'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'.

The list of critical workers can be found in the link below. Firstly, you will need to review whether your current work role is included on the critical workers list. Then I would urge you to consider very carefully if you need to send your child into a school next week.

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

If you are a critical worker and have no alternative but to send your child to school in order to continue to work please contact us by emailing admin@kingsway.herts.sch.uk by midday today stating the days that you will require.

Please note: Schools will not be reimbursed for breakfast club so if you are a critical worker who has been asked to work extra hours you can book this facility but will need to pay and also bear in mind that we buy our provisions from supermarkets and have been having the same problems with supplies that you have.

Some further considerations:

- It is vitally important that during this period of time you minimise social contacts.
- If you or your family becomes unwell you need to self-isolate for 14 days and follow government advice.

We appreciate that being at home is going to be challenging and we all need to pull together as a nation and do all we can to prevent the spread of this virus.

Thank you to all of our families who have sent us best wishes, we are thinking of you all and want you to keep safe. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Caroline T-Walmsley
Headteacher