



Covid 19 - Newsletter 2020

'We Listen, We Learn, We Shine'

THANK YOU

To all our parents who have demonstrated kindness and understanding in such challenging times, we would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU.

As always, we will do our very best to keep you informed of the school's position, and make every effort possible to remain open and serve our community through to better times.

Mrs Logan and all staff

Overdale School response to the Government guidance.

The Government posted Guidance at midnight last night for schools remaining open (see link below). The guidance is clear **'if children can stay safely at home they should do so'**. My opinion, as a Headteacher, is that all parents should make every effort to keep their children safe AT HOME. The fewer children in school, the LOWER the risk to all of us. This significantly lessens the chance that the virus can spread across North Yorkshire and beyond.

Outside of school, parents should do all they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way that can promote the spreading of the virus.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors, our staff are committed to keeping school open from 8am to 3pm to enable the country to keep going.

Furthermore, we will take all practical steps to keep our vulnerable children safe and will endeavour to provide respite care when and if it is needed.

In summary, the scientific guidance is clear: the FEWER children we have in school each day the GREATER chance we have of limiting the virus spreading and this is the GOVERNMENT purpose for closing schools.

These are DIFFICULT times and it is our civic and moral duty to keep our community safe, whilst at the same time keeping our critical services operational.

We can only do this if we maintain staff numbers and ensure low risk in the school.

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

What to do if you meet the Key Worker criteria.

If it is possible to protect your child without school support, we strongly request that you do this. However, if this is not possible please email the school on office@overdale.n-yorks.sch.uk and explain in detail the reason for your request. We will reply to your request as soon as is possible but this may happen over the weekend, depending on the number of requests received.

Presently, we have sufficient staff to open school but should this situation change we will notify you and give contact details for other services that can help if this happens.

Home Learning

All children are coming home today with a 'pack' of support for learning at home, for the next two weeks, which has been collated by their class teacher. Please ensure that you share the suggested timetable with your child and amend it together to agree a structured learning day.

If you have any questions about the pack please email office@overdale.n-yorks.sch.uk and your child's class teacher will reply to you as soon as is possible. If your child's teacher is ill and unable to respond, a Senior Leader will respond on their behalf.

Additional resources will appear on the class pages from your class teacher, please watch out for these from Monday 23rd March, through to returning to school.

Free school meals provision

If your child is eligible for FSM we will be providing vouchers for your family to purchase FOOD from the local supermarket on a weekly basis. We will send out more information about this provision when we have it, via text. There will also be breakfast collections available but again we do not have full details of this but we will send it by text as soon as we know.

Crisis support

If you or your family find yourself in a crisis situation please call the school on 01723 582360 and we will do our best to help you. Please may we ask for your understanding if we are not able to help due to restrictions on our provision, as we will always support wherever we can.

Finally, we wish you a SAFE and HEALTHY passage through this pandemic and look forward to welcoming you all back into school when we are able to do so.

With our very best wishes from all at Overdale.

Headteacher
Vicki Logan (Mrs)

Assistant Headteacher and Senco
Andrew Watson (Mr)

Assistant Headteacher
Robert Bowman (Mr)