

SWINDON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr G Mills BA Hons (QTS), NPQH

Dear Parents,

R.E: Coronavirus Update – 20th March 10:00hrs

Dear Parents,

Below is the latest guidance from Government. As a school we will be following the guidance as laid down by Government. Please take time to read this carefully and thoroughly. 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 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.**

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a **limited** number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

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.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. Children should stay at home.
2. Key Worker families should **ONLY use schools on their working days and ONLY as a last resort.** If there are family members at home who can look after your child, they should stay at home.
3. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then schools will be available for them, as long as it is safe to do so.
4. Parents should not rely on childcare from grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions. This is vitally important.
5. 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.

Overleaf you will find the latest Government guidance on who Key Workers are:

If you fall within the critical categories below you should get in touch with us ASAP.

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Key Groups as defined by the Government are:

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 arm's 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.

Please keep checking emails often as more information about opening hours for next week...etc will be sent out today. With so many children not in, emails and Facebook will be our main ways of communicating. Text messaging will be limited unfortunately.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Mills – Headteacher

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