



Chillerton and Rookley Primary School and Early Learners
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20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware from previously sent out letters and regular updates from the government, Chillerton and Rookley Primary school will be closed from Monday 23rd March. We have had further clarification and *'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.'*

As promised, we are now able to update you on the provision for those of you that may need us to provide care for your children. We would ask you to please contact us if you are unsure if you need this provision.

As of Monday, those of you that Mrs Morgan-Huws has contacted will need to arrive at Godshill Primary school at the normal arrival time for school and in our usual school uniform.

We will continue to update you with any more information and could you please ensure that all contact details are completely up to date as we will be taking these with us. Where possible, all of our teaching staff will also be attending at Godshill.

Please keep us updated if there are any changes to your circumstances

If you have any queries or questions, please contact us on the following:

Contact details are as follows for the Godshill setting:

Phone number – 01983 840246

Email – godshill@stenburyfederation.co.uk

We recognise the importance of doing everything we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and how vital it is that we support those parents who are key workers, our vulnerable children and those children who may have other social needs, but we would also urge you to read and follow the government guidelines and where at all possible *'if children can stay safely at home they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading'*

Below is an excerpt from the guidelines that we hope may also be of use to you but please call us if you have any questions or concerns and one of us will get back to you as soon as we can.

'It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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.

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. 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.

I would also like to take this opportunity, to again thank you all for your patience and understanding and reiterate the importance of us all working together to support each other in these very worrying and confusing times ahead. We will of course do everything we can to ensure that the children are well cared for and their wellbeing continues to be our priority.

Our thoughts are with you and your families. We hope that you and your loved ones remain safe and well and look forward to welcoming you on your return to Chillerton and Rookley whenever that may be. Please keep in touch and enjoy your time together as much as possible.

From all of us at Chillerton and Rookley.