



Wharton CE Primary School
Greville Drive
Winsford
Cheshire
CW7 3EP

Headteacher: Natalie Tomlinson

Covid-19 childcare cover for Keyworkers

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Guidance for schools remaining open from Monday was posted in the early hours this morning. The guidance is clear **“If children can stay safely at home, they should.”** My view as your Headteacher, based on the guidance, is that all parents should endeavour to keep their children at home safely. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread across Winsford and the wider Cheshire community. Outside of school, parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way that can continue to spread the virus.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors, our school staff are committed to providing childcare whilst you are at work.

However where there is only 1 key worker in the household it is the expectation of the government that another family member should cater for your child at home wherever possible, as we **DO NOT** have the capacity in school to cater for everyone. The government have asked for **“schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.”**

Furthermore, we will take all practical steps to keep our vulnerable children safe and we will endeavour to provide 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 the chance we have of limiting the risk of the virus spreading.

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

Please email closed@wharton.cheshire.sch.uk as a matter of urgency if you have not yet notified us that you may require childcare.

Unless you have direct contact from school to say that we are able to offer a child care place please **do not** bring your child to school on Monday 23rd March 2020.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Natalie Tomlinson
Headteacher