

20th March 2020

News from this week

Coronavirus

I would like to thank all parents, carers, governors and children for working with us to maintain as close to normality as we possibly could during this very difficult and constantly changing week. The support that the staff have felt this week from lots of parents and carers has been phenomenal. I also want to personally thank all my staff team publicly. I always have known that I am lucky to have a strong, staff team but I have been overwhelmed this week by their resilience, determination, positivity and willingness to do any job that needed doing.

We are CLOSING school from this afternoon as directed by the government and will not open again as a school until the government allow us to begin functioning as normal.

We are opening as a childcare provider from Monday for those people that have registered with us as a key worker and for our children with an Education, Health and Care plan, children subject to Child Protection plans and children subject to Child in Need plans. All these parents should have received a letter outlining the details of this childcare arrangement. Please be aware, if you have received this letter that you need to return part of it in an email to us by 9am tomorrow morning so that we can start to prepare registers and risk assessments.

If you have not received this letter and you think you should have eligibility for the childcare, please contact admin@withinfields.calderdale.sch.uk with details of your occupation so that the information can be forwarded to you. As government advice changes, or your circumstances, please contact admin@withinfields.calderdale.sch.uk if you need further advice about the childcare.

For those parents, children and families that we won't see for the coming weeks, please try to follow the current guidance in terms of keeping yourselves safe. If we all follow the advice of public health as closely as we can, the hope is that we will be able to reopen and return back to normal.

Information for next week

Support for learning at home

We are formulating work to place on the school website for children to access at home while they are not in education. This will be in the form of links to free websites that the children can access or ideas of activities that families can engage in. We would recommend that your child tries to maintain some level of physical activity and so some of the activities will be linked to getting

children moving and we are trying to keep the screen time as limited as we possibly can.

It is up to you as families to determine how much time your children spend on different activities within these next weeks but we will endeavour to keep updating the information provided so that new ideas and websites are being provided.

Some of you have asked what the children would have been learning if they'd been in school. These details are always available on our school website should you want to find this information.

Please be aware that our teaching staff will be working in our childcare provision in order to keep the critical workers able to carry out their roles and therefore won't be able to respond to direct requests for information or separate work. Everyone is in exactly the same position in terms of children missing school. There is some worry that children that are attending our childcare will be at an advantage as they will be educated but this is not the case. The provision that we are offering is childcare and not education.

Take care

This seems to have become many people's catchphrase this week that I have come across. The person that served me in the petrol station this morning even said it as I was leaving.

There has been no greater time to 'take care'. Please be assured that I, and my staff, genuinely look forward to opening those school gates again and welcoming everybody back to our wonderful school community.

Take care of yourselves and each other.