

# Shepherds Down School

Shepherds Lane, Compton, WINCHESTER. Hants. SO21 2AJ

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Headteacher: Mrs Debby Gooderham



Dear Parents/Carers,

Unfortunately, as you will be aware today was the last day of education that we can provide at Shepherds Down for an indefinite period. In response to the government's directive, we will be providing some form of childcare for those children that it is needed for. The recent government advice is that for most children the safest place for them to be will be at home. However, I appreciate for many of our children the need for routine, structure and being occupied in a familiar surrounding is very important too. I want to reassure all parents that this will not be education provision and so no child has to be here. This decision is down to each parent/carer and their knowledge of their own child's needs.

We are now in a position to confirm arrangements of the provision we can provide for the next two weeks. Children who attend will be based in their own classes and the visual support and structure they are used to will be provided. Where possible, they will have class staff who usually work with them, however we are operating with a depleted work force, so please anticipate some changes. The school curriculum will not be followed, instead fun activities and the opportunity to use the schools grounds and resources such as soft play will be taking place. Most therapist will not be in and classes are unlikely to be completing home books or posing blogs. However hopefully the children will continue to have a lot of fun and will continue to be very well cared for.

As far as I am aware transport will continue to be provided and school opening and closing times remain the same. We have informed transport of all the children who are likely to be coming in from Monday. We continue to have school nursing provision, but this could change at any time if they are prioritised for other roles in the NHS.

I am sure that you appreciate that we have staff who are either ill, self-isolating or needing to stay at home due to underlying health conditions so we have a reduced staffing number and this could change from day to day. Therefore, we will continue to review the staffing for the next day on a daily basis and keep you informed of any change we might need to make in advance. We would also like you to inform us of any change with your child's attendance; if they are going to be absent and for how long or if you are intending to send them back after a period of sickness, because this will also make a difference to our staffing requirements and decision that are made.

I would also like to remind you how important it is that if your child or anyone in their household has either of these symptoms:

- **New and persistent cough**
- **Raised temperature (above 37.8)**

You inform us and keep your child at home for 7 days if they have the symptoms or 14 days if someone else in the household has the symptoms. We will continue to send children home if they present with either of these symptoms.

These arrangements should continue until 3<sup>rd</sup> April, but it is an ever changing situation. I will update you of any plans beyond this as I know them.

For those children who are going to be at home we have put ideas for home learning, such as websites, and provided relevant social stories. Ed and Nicola are also constantly updating the Facebook page with useful information. We are always at the end of the phone if you need anything else.

I know it is very difficult time and everyone is worried. If there is anything else you need from the school please let me know. Stay well, we will pick up where we left off sometime in the not too distant future.

Regards



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