



'Working together to achieve our best.'

Rakegate Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs S L Horton

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Dear Parents/Carers,

On Friday it was announced that restaurants, pubs, theatres, gyms and leisure centres should close in order to slow the spread of coronavirus and a number of large shops have also closed to enable social distancing to happen. On Saturday, the Education Minister, Gavin Williamson, posted on Twitter, **"You should only send your child to school on Monday if you have to, because your work is critical to our COVID-19 response. If you are able to keep your child at home, you should. #StayHomeSaveLives"** This further emphasises the important fact that everyone should stay at home wherever possible.

For this reason I would ask you please to consider the following points:

If you can keep your children at home you must.

If only one parent is a keyworker, wherever possible leave your children at home with the other parent/carer or with another family member who is not classed as vulnerable.

Parents/carers will not have access into the school building and will hand their children over at the main front door.

If parents are working from home and are well then they must keep their children at home.

If anyone in your house is ill then you should be self-isolating for at least 14 days as a family.

We will challenge parents/carers on this and refuse entry if we believe you have the capacity to keep your children at home. We have a duty of care to everyone. You as parents/carers and our staff are hugely important in this response. **Please only use school if it is essential.**

We have a limited amount of staff each day because we have to ensure that the least amount of staff are on site at any time.

We cannot stress the importance of this guidance, this needs everyone to work together and we cannot afford for anyone to take advantage of a very serious situation. We are taking these steps as it is essential in keeping everyone safe.

After reading this letter and considering the developments over the weekend, if you no longer need your children to attend school could you please contact us by email or telephone. (The school office will be open from 8.00am Monday morning to answer your calls)

Thank you again for your support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Horton
Headteacher

Mr Martin
Chair of Governors

