

Dear Parents / Carers

COVID-19 update 24.03.20

Following last night's announcement by the Prime Minister I would like to clarify what Goldwyn can provide for the parents of 'critical workers' and vulnerable children who cannot, (in line with DfE guidance) be "better looked after safely at home"

Up until last week our staffing levels have been sufficient to provide for the reduced number of students we had in school. Since the weekend we have seen a further decrease in staff numbers.

Some staff with children are making the decision to look after their own children at home rather than send them to school and others have been told to self isolate as a precautionary measure due to symptoms they have developed or due to their own medical vulnerability.

Clearly last night's announcement was very powerful and will undoubtedly result in much more stringent measures being taken by everyone.

I would ask you to consider very carefully if you need your child to take up a place in school, or if you are able to keep them more safely at home. The government is clear that in order to prevent the spread of this disease they have told as many people as possible to self isolate.

"We have asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, all childcare settings (including early years settings, childminders and providers of childcare for school-age children), 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."

Staff at Goldwyn are thoroughly committed to supporting critical workers who put themselves in the front line to care for our sick. We will provide childcare in order to enable them to do their job; however, in line with KCC advice I ask that if you have another person in your household who is able to look after your child please will you keep them at home.

"children with at least one parent or carer who is critical to the COVID-19 response can attend school if required. However, many families with a parent or carer working in critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at

home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.”

KCC guidance 23.03.20

I would like to reiterate that the government guidance clearly says not all EHCP children should be in school and many children who have social workers or are in care are able to be kept safe within their family groups.

“You should only send your child to school 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.”

Gavin Williamson Education Minister 21.03.20

I am asking for your support and understanding while we try to minimise the number of students in school, in order to maintain some social distancing and preserve the health of students, their families and staff and their families at Goldwyn.

Yours Sincerely,

Charlotte Lewis
Principal