



Dear All,

Thank you so much for the support you have all given us on trying to **socially distance** during this difficult time, and protecting our children, families, and staff. The messages of support have been quite overwhelming – thank you. I am still appalled with the number of people not taking this seriously and I thank my lucky stars I am the Headteacher of a school with such understanding and thoughtful families.

The message from Government is very clear - **Children should be cared for at home wherever possible; we are in the business of preserving life, preventing spread and maintaining critical services.**

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

I hope you and yours are well and keeping safe during this terrible time. I think you'll all agree the staff are trying really hard to produce some lovely activities and resources you can do at home on our YouTube channel. This will be added to as the days and weeks go on.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5qshpb6v7Z0O1TSs6lhmBQ/videos>

Staff are keeping in touch with you and I am sure we will sort out a routine as time passes. PLEASE do not worry about 'work' we just want to make life as happy and as easy for you all. If you feel a teacher is giving too much 'work' please do not feel like you have to do it. Some staff will also be trying to make some home visits. We will knock on the door, step back and have a chat. It's just so we can stay in touch.

I have also placed on our website a letter about SEND expectations and responsibilities by the Local Authority during this pandemic.

<https://www.wfs.worcs.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=1212>

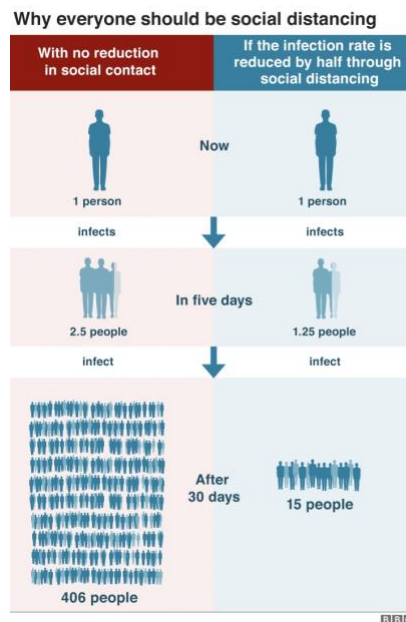
Again, can I thank you all for keeping your children at home and protecting our families and staff. It really is appreciated. As we have only a couple of critical worker children requiring provision, the governors and I have made the decision **to close the school next week and run a virtual school**. I will text parents during Easter to see which families may need a place after Easter. *It is highly likely that they may have to access a provision at a local hub and not*

*necessarily our school – dependent upon numbers.* I have to risk assess the impact for both the pupils and staff, and with the COVID-19 virus still impacting my staff team the health & safety of all is paramount. **When you are able to keep your child safe at home please do so.** This decision also coincides with the Prime Ministers announcement of a complete lockdown of the UK, banning people from leaving their homes or meeting in groups of more than two people as the Government tries to enforce social distancing measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Under the new lockdown, members of the public must not leave their house except to :

- Shop for essentials, as infrequently as possible
- Exercise outdoors once per day, alone or with household members
- Receive medical treatment or provide care
- Travel to and from work if impossible to work from home

**This is so we can help the NHS deal with this crisis.**



**Staffing**

On a much lighter and happier note. Emma Downes (horse riding and swimming TA) gave birth to a beautiful little girl 17<sup>th</sup> March. Mom and baby doing well. Also, it is with sadness, but also with great understanding, to tell you that Jess Manley will not be returning following her maternity leave. She has decided to stay at home and be mom to her lovely children. I think we can all understand that and thank her so much for her contribution to WFS. Jean Brown will be staying now until August 2021, and we thank her for helping us out.

## Food Vouchers – Free School Meals

Providing food vouchers has not been as straight forward as we planned. It's fine for schools who have a local catchment area and can use just one supermarket, but we are spread far and wide with a mixture of supermarkets. The Government is still trying to sort the food voucher scheme. In the short term we have been delivering packed lunches using our own staff. I know this is not ideal but I'd like to thank the staff who have become delivery drivers and the parents who have been so understanding and kind. As soon as it is sorted (and we're not the only school having problems) I will let you know.

## Twitter

This may be useful to you.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing: @CamhsWhct  
CAMHS DBT: @WHCT\_CAMHS\_DBT  
R4W: @WHCT\_R4W  
CAST: @CamhsClaire

CAMHS LD: @WHCT\_LDCAMHS

## Instagram

@Whct\_CAMHSEmotionalWellbeing

Parents and Young People who are currently open to CAMHS can contact Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust for additional support and advice in the event of a deterioration in the young person's mental health. For more information on services available and how to contact them please visit: <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/camhs/>.

During our 'VIRTUAL SCHOOL' time please email [office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk) with any queries and we will get back to you. If you have a safeguarding or parenting concern you can ring **Alison Hopkins (07940 344139)** or **Sarah Evans (07956 787437)** between 8.30am – 4pm.

## Safeguarding children

If you have reason to believe that a child, young person or adult is at immediate risk from harm contact the **Police**:

- telephone: [999](tel:999)

If you have any concerns about a child or young person living in Worcestershire and feel that they may need protection or safeguarding contact the **Family Front Door**.

Staff are available Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 5.00pm and Fridays from 9.00am to 4.30pm.

- telephone: [01905 822666](tel:01905822666)

For assistance **out of office hours** (weekdays and all day at weekends and bank holidays):  
telephone: [01905 768020](tel:01905768020)

Professor Barry Carpenter has been in touch to ask me to pass on this link to a free downloadable resource that might help explain about the virus;  
<https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk/downloads-shop/beating-the-virus>

Kind Regards



Rebecca Garratt  
Headteacher

