

# Cowling Community Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs S Marshall



Gill Lane,  
Cowling,  
Keighley,  
BD22 0DF

e-mail [admin@cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
website [www.cowlingschool.co.uk](http://www.cowlingschool.co.uk)  
Telephone/Fax 01535 632198

20.3.20

## **COWLING SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO PUPILS FROM 3.30PM TODAY – MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to explain the Government's response to Coronavirus. As an eternal optimist earlier this week I undoubtedly shared the views of many of you that we could battle on regardless. However, I have changed my view and I now feel the outbreak is more serious than many of our families may appreciate.

The Government has issued clear guidance that we must all social distance. This is why the schools are closing. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response or you work in one of the critical sectors and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear:

### **If children can safely stay at home, they should.**

We are urging all our parents to keep their children at home and will only be open to those children whose families are key workers.

### **If you are a key worker and you are able to make arrangements to keep your child safe at home then I urge you to do so.**

At Cowling our team are more than willing to support front line key workers. We want to help however we can to keep the NHS running, to ensure the food gets to the shops, to ensure the country runs as best as it can in these unprecedented times. But we need your help.

Please follow these key principles announced by the Government last night:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a **critical** worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members **with underlying conditions**.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.



Critical sectors are: Health and Social Care, Education and childcare, Key Public Services, Local and National Government, Food and other necessary goods, Public Safety and national security, transport, Utilities, communication and financial services. If you believe your role falls within a critical category then **you should confirm with your employer that your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.**

**The Government guidance is available on this link:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you consider you meet the criteria for provision then we will be here for you as long as we can safely staff the building. Our role is to ensure critical workers get to work. As such our role will change and we will be providing child care for those who are entitled to it and if we can educate these children during this time we will but it will not in any way resemble the Cowling School experience we are all used to.

As well as key workers children, those children who work with Social Workers or have an Educational Health Care Plan will also be provided for should their families require provision.

Please only send children to school who come under the guidance and only then if you really need to. Provision is only provided whilst the 'key worker' is working; parents are responsible for their children if they are not at work; please do not use this service as anything other than to support parents whilst working in a key role. If you are a 'key worker', please first consider if you can arrange alternative safe childcare elsewhere rather than school; this will reduce social gatherings and protect your child and staff working in school.

We understand you may only need provision on certain days and would appreciate you letting us know your requirements. Please email [admin@cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk) asap to confirm.

If we can limit the numbers we will slow the rise of infections and pressure on the health service. Ultimately we will be able to return to normal service sooner – but only if everyone pulls together and complies with the spirit of the Government advice.

### **What will arrangements look like in school?**

8.45am school opens to children. Children are not required to wear school uniform.

We will operate from Class 1 and Class 2 depending on numbers.

We will run a skeleton staff who will work on a rota system to meet needs.

Provision will operate from 8.45 to 3.30pm. You will be able to collect your child at any point in the school day prior to 3.30pm and we would encourage you to do so.

If you only work half-days please only bring your child for the hours your work rather than all day to limit the numbers in school.

At present school meals will be provided as normal on site. Please email [admin@cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk) with your week's requirements. Please be aware the menu may be variable. If you prefer your child to bring a packed lunch please let us know. The School Office will not be open. You will only be able to contact school via the class emails set up eg [class1@cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class1@cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Examination update: All national testing is suspended for this academic year.

In a bid to maintain the education of our children we are asking our families to work with their children at home. Teachers are setting work which will be available on our Cowling School website



<https://www.cowlingschool.org.uk/> If you click onto classes you will then find work set by your class teacher. We are striving to make this the work our teachers would have delivered to our children in their lessons and are not just "holding activities" but have a real purpose. It is not fair that our children should miss out on their educational entitlement and we are striving to provide the best "virtual Cowling School" we can. Teachers are aiming to update the work on a weekly basis.

This is of course a very sad day. I apologise if the tone of this letter is not my usual upbeat one but I am trying to follow the advice and trying to keep your child as safe as I can. Our Year 6 pupils have been an absolute joy to work with and I very much hope we get to give them the usual very special goodbye in July. However, schools may not be open then. They are even more special to me as I think I'm right in saying they joined Cowling School at the same time as I did, 2013 and we have been on quite a journey together! You will all be absolute assets to your secondary schools and I know you will continue to show the wonderful attitude to learning which has already taken you so far. I hope to be able to arrange a proper celebration of your time at Cowling with you all when circumstances allow.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff and governors who are all equally committed to providing the very best service we can to our families. We are determined to support our frontline key workers in beating Coronavirus and will keep going as long as we can.

Thank you all for your support at this difficult time. I am extremely proud to be the headteacher of Cowling School working with an incredible team, fantastic families and children who can always make us smile. Keep on smiling!

With best wishes,

Susan Marshall  
(Headteacher)

