

# Swanland Education Trust

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Dear Parents and Carers

Mr Chris Huscroft  
Chief Executive Officer

Once again may I take this opportunity, on behalf of Trust leaders, to thank you for your support so far this week. Almost on an hourly basis, things progress and evaluations of the situation have to be amended and adapted accordingly.

We have today, once again had a conference call between all Trust leaders to discuss how we are working through this and how we can support each other through this time. What is evidently apparent, is that as a group, we feel that morally we have a duty to support society as much as we can by staying open; this is very much in with the Government's decision to keep schools open for as long as it is safe to do so.

However, we are very much mindful that as the severity of the situation increases, we do need to consider those amongst us for whom the virus might pose a significantly higher risk.

Therefore, we would like give the *'Green Light'* to staff and parents to make a decision based on their own specific circumstances as to whether or not being in school/work is the safest option. Please see below the current Government guidance on who this might affect.

We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.

This group includes those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (i.e. anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
  - chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as [asthma](#), [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\)](#), emphysema or [bronchitis](#)
  - chronic heart disease, such as [heart failure](#)
  - [chronic kidney disease](#)
  - chronic liver disease, such as [hepatitis](#)
  - chronic neurological conditions, such as [Parkinson's disease](#), [motor neurone disease](#), [multiple sclerosis \(MS\)](#), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
  - [diabetes](#)
  - problems with your spleen – for example, [sickle cell](#) disease or if you have had your spleen removed
  - a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as [HIV and AIDS](#), or medicines such as [steroid tablets](#) or [chemotherapy](#)
  - being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant.

If you feel that the next necessary step for you or your child is to stay away from school, we completely support this decision, you will not be penalised for making this choice! A number of families in our schools have already taken this decision as a precautionary matter. If you do decide this is the case for you and your family, please do follow your school's normal procedures for reporting absence.

Inevitably, should staff in our schools make a decision to stay at home, this will mean that it will be challenging for us to operate the school as normal. We may find that we are heading towards partial or full closure. We will endeavour to support those families who are front line workers e.g. NHS Staff, Teachers, Police and those in the Fire Service to be able to attend their place of work for as long as we can. We will ask more about this once we know more about closure. Staff in our schools are busy preparing for the eventuality of full school closure. They are getting work ready to send home and also to prepare work that can be sent out to you at a later date. I think it is really important to note that the work sent home will be to *'keep the basics ticking along'*, it is unrealistic to expect staff to prepare differentiated work for your child, as much of this differentiation in school tends to be by the support teachers and staff can provide.

Your child's school will communicate how they will provide this work to you in a follow-up letter.

### **School Lunches**

Should the government enforce school closures, we have been informed that as schools we will need to make arrangements for those who are entitled to Free School Meals, including those children who are in Key Stage 1.

As you can imagine, should our schools have to close, this will have implications for our leaders as to how they will organise and facilitate this. Therefore, I am asking for your assistance please. If your child falls in to one of the categories below:

- My child is in Reception, Year One or Year Two; or
- My child is in receipt of free school meal.

AND you want to have the school organise a meal should the school close, complete the survey, using the link below.

## **[SURVEY LINK](#)**

Once again may I thank you for the support that you are showing to the leader and staff of your schools. Please do stay safe and follow the guidance as strictly as you can to help everyone through this turbulent time.

Your sincerely  
Chris Huscroft  
CEO

