



Dear Varndean families

Opening for the children of Key Workers / Vulnerable children 23rd March 2020

In the light of the updated guidance from the Government on Sunday about social distancing I wanted to reiterate their clear message that vulnerable students and the children of key workers **should be staying at home unless it is not safe** for them to do so. Staying at home reduces the risk of the virus spreading and so the overwhelming majority of children will be at home.

This guidance can be read here:

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

A number of you have followed this advice and confirmed that you no longer need the provision. If you are in this position and haven't yet informed us please do so by emailing Abi Holder abigailholder@varndean.co.uk . Please could you also use this address if your child will not be attending all day or if they will only be in attendance for part of the week.

I also wanted to let you know that we strengthened our approach to social distancing as a result of the new emphasis from the Government yesterday and as a result children will sit at the same desk each day, will be one per table and will use the same computer/chromebook each time they are in attendance. The students responded well to this today but do please reiterate the importance of these new routines with your child/children.

We are also aware that if your children are coming to school there may be particular family circumstances that we should know about (or that change during the period of the epidemic) in order to make sure we meet their needs. If this is the case please email Abi Holder or Vicky Anstiss vickyanstiss@varndean.co.uk to share that information in confidence.

I am pleased to report that the children who attended today worked very purposefully and successfully on their learning and we look forward to continuing this initiative.

Kind regards

Gareth Hughes
Acting Headteacher