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**'All Moving Forward
Together'**

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I apologise for not being able to update you all sooner, but we have been waiting for clarification from the government regarding school closures which begins today. The guidance received outlines what we all need to do as a nation to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. They have given clear guidance on **self-isolation, household-isolation and social distancing**. It is vital that we all do everything we can to follow these guidelines to keep everyone safe.

For this reason **schools will be closed starting from Monday 23rd March**. However, schools are being asked to provide care for a limited number of children, which includes the following:

- Those whose parents work is critical to the COVID-19 response including:
 - Health and social care
 - Education and childcare
 - Key public services, including the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists.
 - Local and national government
 - Food and other necessary goods
 - Public safety and national security – including Ministry of Defence, fire and rescue service employees, prison and probation services
 - Transport
 - Utilities, communication and financial services
- Pupils who are supported by a social worker
- Pupils with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

The guidance does state, however that **children should only attend if they absolutely need to. Many parents who fit these criteria will be able to ensure their child is kept at home and every child who can be should be safely cared for at home.** The guidance also states that 'fewer children making the journey to school, and fewer children in educational settings, lowers the risk that the virus can spread.'

To establish how many children need to be in school, so we can ensure safe staffing levels please **contact us if you feel your circumstances meet the criteria above**. Telephone lines may be busy so if at all possible please email the school office (northfield@eastriding.gov.uk) and we will contact you to discuss your needs as soon as possible today.

We are now working with the local authority to establish provision for pupils entitled to Free School Meals (this does not include Universal Infant Free School Meals) and will provide further information as soon as we can.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during these unprecedented times. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to all the staff are working tirelessly to do everything they can to ensure the children are happy and safe. I will continue to keep you all updated as regularly as possible via the text messaging service and school website. Thank you once again, take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sam Woolhouse
Headteacher



www.driffieldnorthfieldinfants.co.uk