



Dear parents and carers,

Our schools and early years are staying open for those who need us and we'd encourage you to send your child into school every day so they can continue to access learning, meet friends and have time with the school.

Many of our schools are currently open and every day they are working hard and children are enjoying fun activities.

For example Studley Green welcomes children every day. Headteacher Sarah Garbutt said:

"Studley Green welcomes children every day and there is a very positive and happy atmosphere in school. While prioritising keeping safe, it has been a lovely opportunity for children to be in smaller groups, developing friendships and relationships with their peers and the adults in school.

There is a variety of learning each day including PE, outdoor activities and art as well as the learning being done by those at home."

We know this is a worrying time so we've put together some FAQs which we hope answer your questions.



FAQs

Why should my child go to school when everyone else is off?

Our schools and early years settings are staying open for those children who benefit from additional support and for children of critical workers. They are here for you and ready to help.

I'm worried my child will be singled out as vulnerable because they are attending school.

Your child will be attending school alongside other children that need to be in school as their parents are key workers. Every place that is open is providing lots of stimulating activities and keeping pupils busy during their time there. www.gov.uk

Is my child eligible for this though?

If your child has a social worker they are eligible.

I'm worried by going to school my child will bring back COVID-19 into our home and we have underlying health issues. What should I do?

Your social worker can talk through how your child will be kept safe at school and what you can do to keep them and the rest of your family safe. Schools are following the government guidance for schools and educational settings that sets out how to keep each other safe. www.gov.uk

Will they still get free school meals if they attend school. We have been using the vouchers.

Yes, schools are providing a range of free school options from hot cooked meals on site as usual, packed lunches or meal vouchers. Your child's school will be able to let you know what their arrangements are.

What other benefits will my child have from attending school, most of their friends are at home?

This can be difficult for some children to get used to as not all children are attending school at the moment. This does mean though they will get much more support with their learning and school based activities from an adult in school than they would usually. Many children and their parents in this position are reporting that they are benefitting from this through improved adult child friendships, improved self-esteem and improved learning progress because of the higher adult to child ratio. It also means you don't have to home school. Many parents are also reporting that their children have improved behaviour because they have had a break from being at home, they have been able to use up more energy and have access to fun activities and resources at school. Children often benefit from a normal routine and it separates school from home as a place for learning so you can concentrate on your family time together.

I am worried about children being in school who are ill.

Schools are very good at noticing changes in children's health. Schools are following social distancing measures to minimise contact between children; many are also taking and recording children's temperatures as they come into school each morning and making sure that all children are following strict hand washing routines.

Further information:

Try to keep in contact with your school and speak to them if you have any concerns.

There is further information on the **NHS website** and **Public Health England** and you can keep up to date with the latest news by following PHE Twitter account @PHE_uk

Your child can access these links for support: www.kooth.com
www.youngminds.org.uk and www.keep-your-head.com

Other useful sources of support in your area: **On Your Mind**



Helpline numbers: Wiltshire

Children and young people can also access a **24/7 children's mental health helpline** which has recently launched in Wiltshire, Swindon and Bath & North East Somerset.

What time is it?

9am - 5pm on a weekday

5pm - 9am on a weekday
or on weekends

The number to phone:

01865 903777

01865 90100

