



We find ourselves approaching the end of week two of an extraordinary time, I hope all of our families are keeping safe, well and being kind to each other. All the staff miss seeing you on a daily basis and the usual 'buzz' of our happy school.

It has appeared to me over the past days, in times of uncertainty there seems to be a human trait that looks for the security of 'normality'. However, I can honestly say that, over my 24 years as a school leader, I have never seen a contingency plan that would cover what we all currently find ourselves dealing with; and if honest I hope to never again.

### Contact with Families

We have been receiving great feedback, from all sort of sources, about the tremendous work our families are doing together. I also know there are suggestions all over the news and social media. However, it's worth remembering that in these unprecedented times, there will sadly be a number of 'scams/actors' whose intentions are not good. We would all hope that nobody would try and take advantage of the heightened vulnerability of others. However, sadly as reminded this week by the Department for Education and Trading Standards, this is not always the case. It is all of our duty, therefore, to ensure that no one unsuitable has access to any of our children or their families.

For more advice visit the 'stay connected' page at [surreycc.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://surreycc.gov.uk/coronavirus)

I have the added responsibility for duty of care to all our staff. They must never be put in a position where an allegation can be made about their professional conduct, which cannot be thoroughly and fairly investigated. It is essential that we all are extra vigilant at this time to ensure both our children and adults are kept safe not only from a health perspective but also in regard to their personal well-being; and for staff protection of their professional reputation.

Ewell Grove's policy will remain that publishing Learning from Home is only via our website. Although we share your desire to achieve 'lovely' things we must ensure any use of online tools and systems are in line with safeguarding, privacy, data protection/GDPR and school policy requirements. *Our current staff Acceptable Use Policy does not allow for any personal device to be used for contact with children/families.*

We fully appreciate that our children are missing contact with our staff. Whilst considering the numerous elements that need careful consideration to safeguard everyone, keeping in contact with our children and families is vitally important. We are therefore going to introduce the routine of Weekly Class Newsletters.

### Weekly Class Newsletters

A new and specific email address has been created to facilitate 'Weekly Class Newsletters'; these will be shared via our school website.

Families can email in work and messages etc. to:

[weekly.classnewsletter@ewell-grove.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:weekly.classnewsletter@ewell-grove.surrey.sch.uk).

If you would also like to include a photo of your child the rules below must be adhered to. The class staff will 'edit' and collate onto approximately one page of A4 page; we will rotate children to ensure everyone gets a chance over a number of weeks.

- ❖ When emailing an entry, you must put your child's class name in the subject box
- ❖ This email address will only be used for gathering work/messages; staff will not reply to any comments/questions etc.
- ❖ Only Ewell Grove children can submit entries (any photos that include other family members will not be published)
- ❖ Children in photos must be suitably dressed and behaving in line with our 'Golden Rules'; staff will reserve editing rights for this purpose.
- ❖ By submitting a photo you are consenting to it being shared on our school website

Today last half term's Virtual Memory Books will be uploaded onto the School Website; these also include a special message from the staff.

The next two weeks of Learning from Home for each year group will be emailed to every family on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Please remember a copy for each year group will also be available on our website.

In addition to the work set by Ewell Grove, I know many of you have also found other productive daily activities, such as Joe Wicks Workout. In case you haven't already seen it you can also listen to David Walliams read a story every day:

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

Ewell Grove staff are committed to supporting our families who have currently been charged, by the Government, to provide whatever educational provision they can to their children over the coming weeks. However, we all have to remember that this is not education as we have ever known it. Remember to be kind to yourselves whilst endeavouring to achieve this demanding task being asked of you. You may find the following Government advice useful:

[covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing)

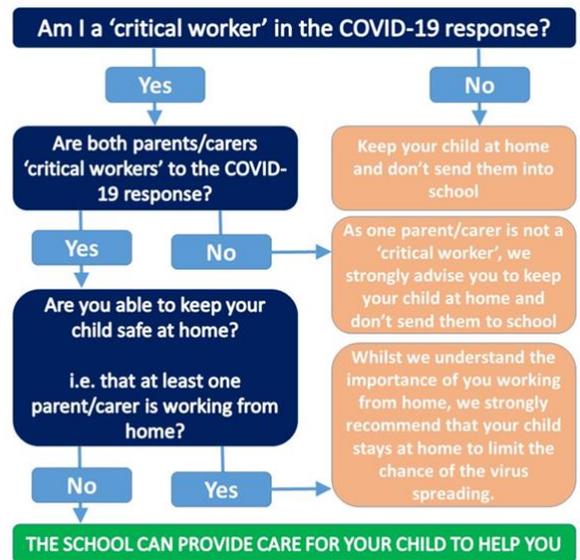
Ewell Grove will not open as a Critical Worker centre over the two week Easter Holiday; however COVID 19 emergency legislation means that our staff will be on call to support Hubs that are open across Surrey.

Thank you to our school community for all your messages of support and good wishes.

In reality we all knew that adapting to this rapidly changing and increasingly serious threat to our lives would be challenging, and the added responsibility we all feel for our own families also plays heavily on our conscience. However, if we can at least all trust that everybody is committed to continuing to achieve the best we can for our whole school community, then hopefully we can look at one another's decisions with human compassion and generosity of spirit. We need to hang onto the fact that one day, when this is over, it will be the strong relationships that our school is founded upon that will help us all heal.

Please find attached a [letter](#) from Liz Mills (Director of Education) and Councillor Julie Iles (Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning) at Surrey County Council.

We have sent separately a Critical Worker Provision Form for after the Easter Holiday; the diagram below explains how eligibility is decided. If you have not received this and you think you are eligible please contact us via [info@ewell-grove.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@ewell-grove.surrey.sch.uk).



Don't forget the Friends of Ewell Grove Facebook Page

*Happy Easter from your Class Mascots*