

23/03/2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID-19 Updates – March 23rd

We are under considerable strain this morning to maintain a working school environment due to staff absence and parents sending students into classes which currently remain closed. We will be contacting parents today individually to discuss whether attendance in school is currently essential based on the most recent government advice from Gavin Williamson;

“You should only send your child to school on Monday if you have to, because your work is critical to our COVID-19 response. If you are able to keep your child at home, you should.”

This is in relation to **all** children, including those with EHCPs and deemed as vulnerable. We have completed individual risk assessments, and this will form part of our decision-making process with regards to contacting you individually about school attendance.

This is especially with regard to the advice from the Government:

“Special schools, colleges and local authorities are advised to make case by case basis assessments of the health and safeguarding considerations of pupils and students on an education, health and care (EHC) plan. For some, they will be safer in an education provision. For others, they will be safer at home.”

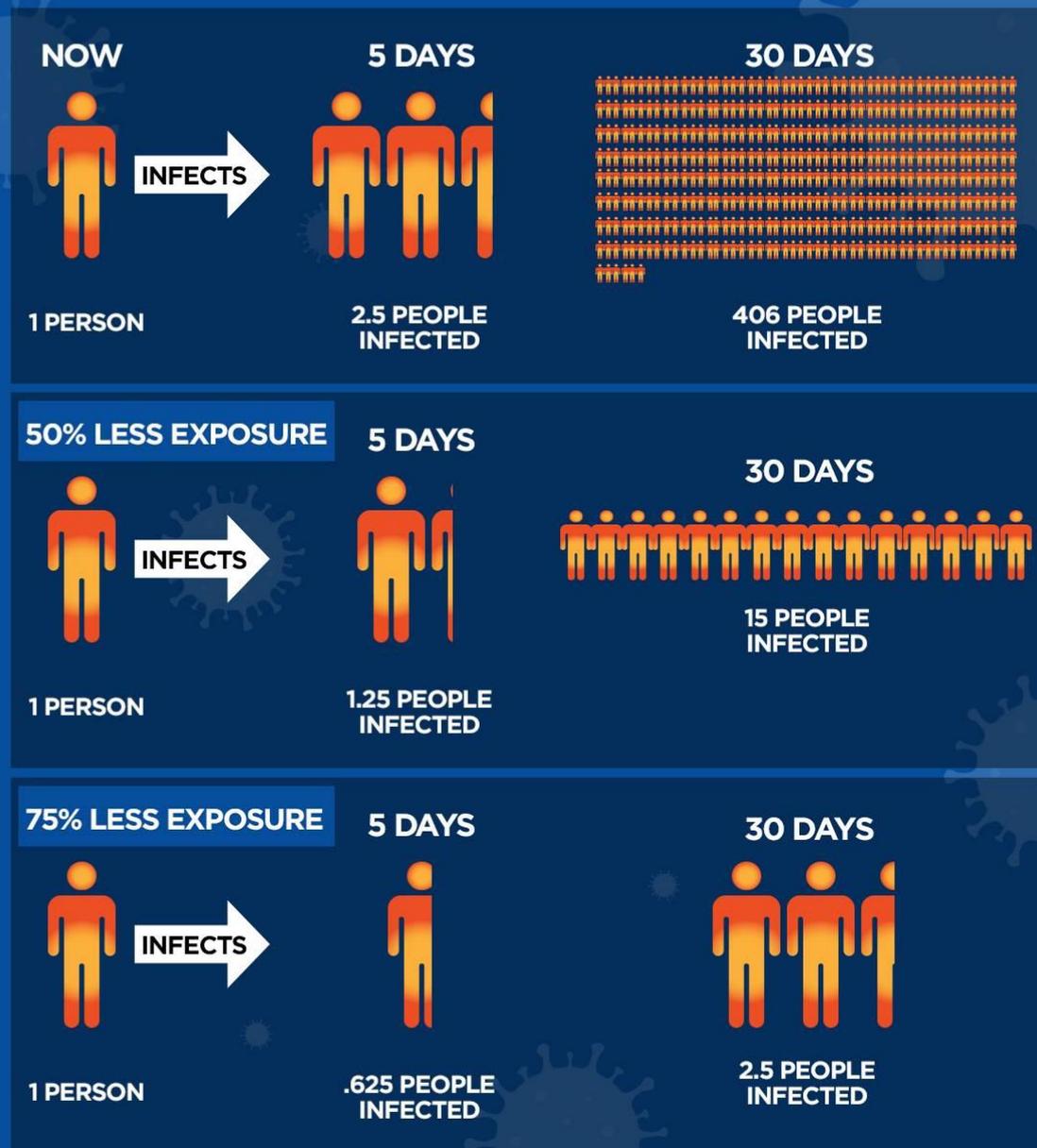
Those students currently at home should have received home learning support packs directly from your child’s class teacher to try and support you at home with their learning. We recognise that this will not cover every aspect of your child’s learning and development, but staff in school have worked extremely hard completing these packs over the last week.

The above will remain in place until after the Easter Break. Moving forward we will be requesting that you contact the school at least 24 hours prior to intending to send your child in to school. Please note they should not be coming to school if they are currently within self-isolation. We also strongly advise that students with complex medical needs continue to self-isolate and socially distance for a minimum of 12 weeks.

We are currently reviewing staffing and student absence on a daily basis to assess which classes we may be able to open or have to close. **Please can you inform the school office if you are thinking about sending your child back to school at any time, as this could have a significant impact on the school remaining operational and providing the right levels of staffing ratios. We will continue to monitor the 7-14 day isolation periods that both staff and students should be following.**

Free School Meals - If your child is entitled to free school meals you will be contacted separately about arrangements for this today or tomorrow. However, vouchers will not be available until next week at the earliest.

The Math Behind Social Distancing



Class closures from Tuesday 24th March other than for children of critical key workers (except Wouldham);

- All Nexus Wouldham Classes including children of critical key workers (until Thursday 26th earliest) Only Keyworker children from Thursday 26th.
- Tonbridge site – all classes will be closed from the end of today (Monday 23rd March) and will remain closed until after Easter, Thursday 16th April. We will provide further information in due course.

- **With immediate effect from today - The school will only be open to critical key worker children and those who have been contacted individually.**

We will continue to review our provision in line with the latest government guidelines. We take our duty of care extremely seriously and every decision we take will be with the very best interest of your child in mind.

I realise these are uniquely difficult times for families and pupils, and I am sure you will understand it is the same for our staff and therefore the school site will be closing at 4pm every day from today to allow our staff to access shops and look after their families. I thus ask for your understanding with regard to our current class closures and the subsequent plans we formulate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Jarred', written in a cursive style.

Scott Jarred - Headteacher

