

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Dear Parents

Attendance or Self-Isolation

Yesterday afternoon the Prime Minister announced increased measures in order to try to delay the current epidemic.

The advice regarding self-isolation for the people presenting symptoms of high temperature or a new persistent cough, has changed from 7 to 14 days for the whole household.

In addition, people are advised;

- Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.
- You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.
- Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.
- Read our [advice about staying at home](#).

School staff cannot give you any further advice on this matter as we do not have the knowledge or the authority to do so.

If you feel that your family circumstances require you to self-isolate because of other extenuating health circumstances or because you care for someone with these additional health concerns, we would support your decision to do so. We do ask however that you contact the school to let us know your intentions so we can monitor how the epidemic is impacting on the school.

The school will keep abreast of any changes in guidance and will keep you informed. We are aware that this is a very worrying time for parents and we wish to reassure you that we are doing all we can to maintain a safe environment for the children and staff.

During this period we have increased levels of calls first thing in the morning and would ask that you refer to the above guidance first, before calling us with your decision to self-isolate. **You will need to make this decision yourself based on the guidance detailed above as school staff are not able to make the decision for you.** Please have patience if we take a little longer to respond.

The latest information regarding school settings can be found [here](#).

Social Distancing

Following yesterday's advice to minimise social interaction and to implement social distancing we would like to advise that all trips are now cancelled for the rest of the term. Children will remain in school for the full day.

We have also implementing children being dropped off at the school gate and going straight into class to minimise social contact in the playground with all additional adults/parents.

At the end of the day, for safeguarding reasons, parents will be able to collect their child from the usual collection points but will be asked to leave the playground immediately and minimise contact with other adults/children.

We reiterate that all end of term Easter performances have been cancelled for this same reason.

Communication

You will have received an invitation to join the SIMS ParentApp, please follow the instructions and review the contact data we have for you. Why is this necessary?

1. It is important that we have the latest contact information for you given that we will be communicating with you over this period using several different methods, all of which will feed from this same data.
2. It avoids the need for completing paper forms and ensures that sensitive data is transferred securely and not reliant on paper which can get lost between home and school.

Please download the ParentApp as per the instruction you have received and contact Mrs Tatton who will be able to talk you through any queries you may have, please call after 9.30am if your query relates to the Parent App.

Staff

Our staff have been working very hard to teach the children on the importance of good hygiene and addressing their concerns on a day to day basis, whilst preparing work for children to take home or access remotely if school closures are called. Our office staff are collating information that may be useful for health authorities whilst still maintaining positive and friendly communication with our families; as well as keeping a calm and positive atmosphere across the school for the children.

Whilst we are aware that the current situation may raise levels of anxiety, we would like to remind parents that we are not able to make decisions on your behalf and would ask for your patience and understanding when communicating with staff who are having to deal with changing government advice. We have a responsibility to our staff to look after their health and wellbeing too and we ask that parents do not take out their frustrations on staff because of delays in responding or because we are unable to give the answers they wish to hear.

Our staff are a very important part of our school community and many also have their children at Corpus Christi or other local schools which means they are subject to the same worries and concerns as you are. We ask that we all try to be kind to each other and as such help model the positive behaviour for children in these trying and unprecedented times.

Phase leaders will be emailing parents appropriate websites for children to work from if they are in self-isolation, at your discretion.

We would like to reassure you all that we have the children's best interests at the centre of every decision that we make and that we are constantly monitoring the situation.

Yours sincerely

Jean Connery
Co-Headteacher

Robert Coyle
Co-Headteacher