



School Newsletter

With Christ we live, we love, we learn and we grow

17.03.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 Coronavirus Update

I wanted to let you know about some of the additional measures we are taking in school in response to the pandemic.

In terms of social distancing measures, we have taken the step of refusing entry to those people who do not need to be in the building.

Therefore, we have stopped certain visitors coming into the school to protect both children, staff and the visitors themselves e.g. pupil counsellor, music teachers, occupational health workers and so on. In addition, we are asking parents to drop children off at the door and collect from the door rather than coming into the school building in nursery, breakfast club and after-school club. I apologise for any disruption or inconvenience this causes.

To minimise larger gatherings, we are no longer having whole school assemblies for the time-being, **so Y3's assembly this week has been postponed** and potentially cancelled depending on how things develop. We originally thought of videoing the collective worship, and putting it on *Class Dojo*, but we decided, due to disruption from pupil absence not to do so. Again apologies for any disappointment that causes. The Mothers' Day Stay and Play sessions in the nursery and Reception have also been cancelled.

In order to reduce the number of children in the dining hall at any one time we have moved to four lunchtime sittings instead of two. In this way, there is only a maximum of 60 or so children in the hall at any one time as opposed to 100+.

There will be no after school extra-curricular clubs after school: so no netball, football or dance clubs for example.

I hope you find the daily DfE update that we forward to you useful. And, with reference to that if any child presents as unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, we

are sending them home in accordance with the current advice. Furthermore, the advice also states that:

If you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community. For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.
Department for Education Daily Email 17.03.2020.

Every now and then, a question or scenario is put to us, to which we do not fully know the answer or are unsure about. In those cases, we seek advice from the DfE coronavirus helpline or NHS 111.

In terms of hygiene, our cleaning regime is targeting the important areas as described in previous newsletters. We are also insisting upon excellent hand and respiratory hygiene.

If our school needs to close, we will be aiming to support children in their education by providing a morning's work each day. We are looking to do this in part by offering work through online software packages. **If your child or if you are aware of any child who may not be able to access learning online, please inform the school office.**

Finally, a number of children in our school are eligible for Free School Meals, (by this I do not mean the universal free meals for the children in Reception, Y1 and Y2). I was listening to the Prime Minister in his press conference tonight saying that the government has put plans in place to ensure that these families do not suffer. We are keen to ensure that these families receive the support to which they are entitled.

We are also doing our best to reassure the children; a small number of them are very worried because they notice the changes happening around them. There are a number of sites on Google to support adults in explaining the virus to children and I know our teachers have been answering questions as sensitively as possible.

We put our trust in God to look after all of our families and particularly the more vulnerable members.

Best wishes,
Patrick Smyth, Headteacher.