



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, can I say a big thank you to our school community who have today began pulling together to implement plans announced by the UK Government in order to delay the spread of the Coronavirus. To clarify the guidance revealed last night, anyone presenting with either/both of the following symptoms will need to self-isolate with their entire family for 14 days*;

- **A temperature of 37.8C or above and/or**
- **A new, persistent cough**

*Please note that this is an increase from the 7 days that we were told last week. Anyone in isolation already will now need to move to a 14 day isolation period with days that have passed already counting to the total.

Implementing these changes on the whole is going to be difficult and I understand that this is not only a worrying time, but also a frustrating one for many. In order for these measures to be effective, we are going to have to change much of our usual patterns of behaviour as we work together to contribute to stopping the spread of this virus. *Please can we ask that all parents consider the risks that bringing a child with these symptoms (however mild) into our school community could have and take the decision to self-isolate based on the recommendations set out by the Prime Minister.*

In addition to this, we have been asked to implement social distancing measures. These are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people to reduce the transmission of coronavirus. These measures are:

- **Avoid contact with someone with the symptoms outlined above**
- **Avoid non-essential use of public transport**
- **Avoid large gatherings, and gatherings in smaller spaces (pubs, cinemas, restaurants etc)**
- **Avoid gatherings with friends and family. The use of social media is encouraged.**
- **Use telephone/online services to contact GP or other essential services.**

In school, we have now taken steps to reduce/cancel all visitors into the building and have cancelled all upcoming events which may require larger groups needing to convene. All PTFA events are postponed until further notice and our Summer Term Parents Evening which is usually scheduled for the end of April will not take place until we are given more certainty on the status of this rapidly changing situation. From this point forward, please can we ask that parents only visit the school office should the need be essential and general enquiries and messages etc move to email/telephone. Whilst staff will still be available at drop off/pick up times, please can we ask that conversations with school staff are kept as brief as possible.



We are responding quickly to guidance as it is released and are working quickly to create Home Learning Packs for children to undertake whilst in self-isolation or in the event of any school closure. As the announcements are very recent for these new measures to be in place, we have been working hard to complete these and aim to have them ready by the end of the week.

The Home Learning Packs will include suggested activities and work to be completed for each year group and these packs will be sent out initially to those families who are currently in self-isolation in the first instance. We appreciate your patience in these packs being created as we want to ensure that everything we ask parents and children to complete at home has been given careful thought and is in line with the high expectations of learning we incorporate into every lesson in school.

Right now, I feel overwhelmingly that our health and well-being must take priority. Education is vital and our job as educators is equally paramount but these are uncertain, unprecedented and challenging times, which require us all to think, act and behave in ways that many of us have never known in our generation. For those families that are currently in self-isolation already, I hope that things are well. Please try not to worry about the impact on any lost learning time—the Home Learning Packs will help fill the gaps in time when they are released later this week. For now, use the internet (if possible), play games, read lots of books, play board games, practice times tables and spellings and keep active.

In line with Government guidance, school remains open for children who are not showing symptoms. I will continue to keep you updated via our usual communication platforms and if anything changes with the status of the school, I will let you know as soon as is physically possible. **Please be reminded that unless we inform you differently, school is operating as usual.**

Thank you all once again for your patience, understanding and care during this unsettling period. Every member of our school and wider community is in my thoughts at this time and I know that as united we stand, we can stay strong, stay calm and stay together to fight the risks that this virus poses to us.

Should you wish to discuss your family's personal circumstance, please contact the school office or email on the details outlined at the bottom of this letter.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Sam Eden
Headteacher
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