



Friday 13th March

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you are aware, advice regarding the Covid-19 'coronavirus' outbreak is being constantly updated as the situation develops. Yesterday, the Government signalled a move from the first phase of its plan to tackle the virus, the containment phase, to the delay phase.

This requires us, as a school, to change our approach in line with guidelines and our understanding of the requirements of this phase of the plan. We have considered how best to approach this, in a way that preserves as much of normal school life as possible. **We will not be closing the school unless we are directed to do so by Government.** We will, however, be making a few changes and postponing some events to assist with attempts to begin a process of social distancing. These changes are an attempt to minimise the interactions between groups of people across the school community.

It is important for us to recognise that the overwhelming majority of children are not at significant health risk from Covid-19, but they could carry the virus into settings or groups where people are at higher risk, such as the elderly.

From Monday, the school will be taking the following actions to minimise social interaction and contact:

- Departmental and whole school assemblies will be cancelled and lunchtime arrangements altered, where possible, to minimise numbers of children together in the hall.
- **Parents' Evenings are being postponed on 23rd and 24th March** these will be rearranged as soon as guidance changes.

If your child is absent for any reason, please can you ensure that you leave a message, or speak to the office, explaining clearly the reasons why. If your child develops a continuous cough OR a temperature of 37.8°C (100°F) or above, we would ask that you keep them off school for seven days as a precautionary measure. When leaving a message, please let us know if they have either of these symptoms so that we can mark the register accordingly.

Parents are not to worry about absent rates at this time, we will support any decision you make regarding your child's health and well-being and if that means you have to keep them off with their siblings then so be it ... we are living in extraordinary times.

Teachers have been briefed on supporting children who are absent by using 'SEASAW' to set work and by signposting other useful online resources.

We will not send 'hard' (photocopies etc) copies home so please ensure that you have an online connection and that your SEASAW access is current by checking with the school office.

Please ensure all other ' ParentPay information is up to date as we may have to communicate important messages very quickly in future.

I apologise for any inconvenience that these actions will cause, but I am sure you understand that the school has a responsibility, as a key part of our community, to play its part in attempting to delay the spread of Covid-19. I feel the measures outlined above are manageable, proportionate and reasonable steps for us to take to help protect everyone. This situation is unprecedented, and as such it is likely that guidance will be updated again, and that I will need to write to you again to ensure you know what school is doing, and why. Please continue to encourage good hand hygiene in your children. It remains the most effective method to prevent the spread of the virus.

Patrick McDowell
Headteacher

If you need to cough or sneeze			You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser				
							
Catch it with a tissue	Bin it	Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser	After breaks & sport activities	Before cooking & eating	SCHOOL ETC. On arrival at any childcare or educational setting	After using the toilet	Before leaving home
 Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands	 Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles	 If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels					