



HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus (Covid-19) - Update for Parents/Carers

From the news over the weekend and the updated government communications yesterday afternoon, you will already appreciate that the situation with regard to Coronavirus is rapidly changing.

Over the past few days, the school has updated our contingency plans to help ensure the health and well-being of all members of our community and the continued education of all our pupils. The actions have been drafted with three key points in mind:

1. We are very conscious that we have a number of vulnerable individuals, pupils and staff, in our community due to underlying health conditions.
2. We have a duty to do what we can to limit the spread of the virus, particularly in the relatively close community that exists in and around Wells.
3. We wish to maintain as much education as possible for all our pupils in the event of school closures.

Given the latest updated government advice, it is clear that in addition to the pupil absences that we had yesterday, we are likely to have a greater number of absences in the days to come.

Current situation

At this time schools have been advised to stay open. However, Public Health recognise that staff absence may push schools into a position where that cannot be sustained. It is likely that the number of staff absences will increase and we may reach a point where we are unable to keep the school fully open for all year groups. We will keep you updated on this situation.

Pupil absence

The government advice appears, at the time of writing, to remain consistent with the previous symptoms identified, but they have increased the isolation time. Given the latest

advice, please do not send your child to school if they or someone else in the household are showing the symptoms, however mild, identified in the government advice:

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- **new continuous cough and/or**
- **high temperature (37.8° or higher)**

If a child attends with these symptoms, or develops them during the school day, we will be phoning home to ask parents/ carers to collect their child and we will keep them away from other pupils. We appreciate that this is a difficult judgement and would ask for your understanding that we may err on the side of caution.

If your child develops symptoms at home please do not send them into school for at least 14 days from the first day. So that we can ensure the safety of all our students please continue to contact the school office on 01749 673516 to report your child's absence, simply advising us that they are in self-isolation. Alternatively, parents/ carers can email horringtonparents@educ.somerset.gov.uk

The following link provides the stay at home advice from the government:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Pupils with vulnerable health conditions

We will be contacting parents separately with regard to how the current guidance may affect your child and your family and to discuss with you any concerns or queries you may have.

Other measures

In addition to the extra sanitation and hygiene processes that we have put in place in school, we are taking the following extra steps:

Easter assembly, 26th March

We are cancelling the Easter assembly planned for 26th March.

School sport fixtures

Sport fixtures will not run until further notice. This is a decision that has been made individually by the majority of Somerset schools.

Assemblies

We will not be holding whole school assemblies up to Easter in order to reduce the number of children being together in one place in school.

Visitors

We will continue to accept visitors on to the school site as there are numerous reasons why we need to see parents, carers or members of the community. However, we would ask that non-essential visits are avoided if at all possible.

Other events

All school events are under review.

Action in the event of a school closure

Staff are currently working on plans to provide learning opportunities for our pupils during any closure. Alongside planning and delivering lessons in school at this time, staff are working on packs of learning resources that can be used at home with your children. We are aiming to get these packs ready to send home with the children later this week. There will be a separate letter for parents included with these home learning packs.

In the event of a closure, we will be communicating with parents via the school email for parents using horringtonparents@educ.somerset.gov.uk or sch.186@educ.somerset.gov.uk and via the school website. We cannot communicate via other personal email addresses (or messaging apps) for reasons of safeguarding and data protection.

If it arises, a closure notice may come at short notice and, if you have not done so already, we ask you to think about your preparations if this eventuality arises.

To help us to be able to communicate effectively with you, please can we remind you to update us if your contact details have changed e.g. mobile phone and email address. You can do this by phoning or emailing the school office.

Contact

We appreciate that this period is an anxious time for everybody. We will do all we can to answer queries or concerns as soon as we are able to. However, our response time to parents may be a little longer than normal where we have reduced staffing and whilst we review all pieces of information available to us. We will advise you of any changes or updates as soon as we are able to.

Finally, a reminder that the Government has an enquiries helpline for parents/carers, young people and school staff on **0800 046 8687**. **The opening hours have now been extended to include the weekend and are:** 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday).

We are very grateful for the many messages of support that we have received.

Yours faithfully,

Julie Williams

Headteacher