



# The Priory Church of England Primary School

***Learning together, aiming high***

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Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **School Update re. Coronavirus (COVID – 19) – Letter 2**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, the UK Chief Medical Officers, as part of their graduated response to the pandemic Coronavirus, updated their guidance to schools. As a result, the school has moved to stage 3 (mitigation & delay stage) on our risk assessment i.e. significant risk/likelihood of infection. There are a number of further precautionary measures the school will be taking from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, in addition to those previously advised.

These will need to be reviewed regularly according to the advice received from the Department of Education and Public Health England. The current guidelines can be found here for your information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

### What additional core measures are the school taking?

- The school is thoroughly cleaned each day and has increased its cleaning of frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- It is paramount that all adults and children wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water at key points throughout the school day.
  - *before leaving home*
  - *on arrival at school (hand sanitiser available)*
  - *after using the toilet*
  - *after breaks and sporting activities*
  - *before food preparation*
  - *before eating any food, including snacks (hand sanitiser available)*
  - *before leaving school (**NEW PROCEDURE**)*
- Reminding children to cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue and then throwing the tissue in a bin.
- Temporarily removing self-service food (e.g. the salad bar) at lunchtime – food will only be served by kitchen staff.
- There will be no food technology or food-related activities (e.g. cake sales) during this outbreak.

- Fruit snacks will be distributed by staff wearing gloves.
- All pupils will be expected to bring their own water bottles to school as school cups will not be available, except at lunchtime.
- Staff will minimise sharing of resources where possible e.g. naming pencils. In reality the importance of personal hygiene e.g. washing hands after touching a chrome book is key.
- School leadership will no longer be available on the main gate at the beginning and end of day, but will be supporting the hand gel point at the inner gate.

## Commonly asked questions regarding our current procedures

### **1. How is the school keeping my son or daughter safe?**

We are strictly following Public Health England guidance.

### **2. What do I do if my son or daughter is ill?**

If you believe that your son or daughter may have any symptoms of Covid-19, you should keep them at home and contact NHS111 for guidance.

The school will now err on the side of caution and will send children home if any symptoms are displayed in school.

### **3. What do I do if my son or daughter has a new continuous cough or high temperature (over 37.8)?**

The latest update is that you should keep them at home for 7 days from when the symptoms first appeared – but you will know what is best for your child. Contact NHS111 for guidance.

### **4. What do I do if my son or daughter has an underlying medical condition?**

Contact your GP or NHS111 for specific guidance and keep us informed.

### **5. What happens if there is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in my family – should I keep my child off school?**

Call NHS111 for guidance. In confirmed cases of COVID 19 and there has been close contact (defined as sharing a house), then the child should also self-isolate for 14 days. In unconfirmed cases and where the child is showing no symptoms then there is no requirement to self-isolate although this is a measure that may be introduced at a later date.

### **6. What will happen to my child's attendance figure if it is necessary to keep them off school?**

The government has introduced special absence codes relating to Coronavirus, to ensure that children/parents and schools are not penalised for absences at this time.

### **7. Are Assemblies still happening?**

Yes – at the moment.

### **8. How is the school supporting anxious children about what is a very unsettling time?**

The school's focus remains on celebrating all that is exciting about learning new things and being at primary school. When necessary the school will provide reassurance to individuals by listening to their concerns, reinforcing the message of personal hygiene and repeating the medical advice that, to date, not many children have been affected. We will advise parents if we become concerned about your child's well-being.

## 9. Will key school events and trips still happen e.g. the gala, Easter service, residential?

We will assess the risk on a case by case basis and follow the latest advice. The Class 2 SATs meeting on Monday is **cancelled**, but the Class 3 water survival swimming lesson will still take place. The Creature teacher experience on Thursday will also go ahead as planned. The gala, Easter service and Y5 residential in May are now looking vulnerable but no decision to cancel has been made yet.

## 10. What happens if significant numbers of staff are poorly or self-isolating?

The school has a plan of action to cover staff absence, which may include larger class sizes and increased use of Higher Level Teaching Assistant cover. Obviously there is a tipping point in terms of the health and safety of pupils and at this stage parents would be informed. This may include partial or full closure or bringing packed lunches if the kitchen is closed. We will endeavor to give as much notice as possible. Currently we have 3 staff absent and the situation is manageable, although interventions and booster groups may not happen as planned as capacity reduces.

## 11. Is there a continuation of learning plan, should the school close for a prolonged period of time?

Yes, in the event the school has to close, we have planned to action the following:

- Whole school communication to parents via school email and text.
- Initially, teaching Staff to communicate to pupils via **class blog on webpage** (updated daily). The school will look to develop a more interactive approach using **google classroom** between set hours each day. **To help our preparation for this, please can all KS2 pupils check that they can log into their google accounts at home over the next week.** Please advise the school office of any difficulties.
- Children to have 1 Maths (Maths No Problem workbooks to go home) and 1 English activity (CGP core skills books to go home with A4 paper) per day. The instructions will be posted on the class blog / google classroom by 9am each day.
- Children to take home a reading book and reading diary. Daily reading to be mandatory.
- School will also make use of any online learning resources available e.g. TT Rockstars
- School will not set work relating to foundation subjects but would set up a research project during the closure.
- Our intention would be that during the closure children would have set work /activities amounting to approximately 3 hours a day.  
Please be assured that we are doing all we can do to keep your children safe while at school. As you will appreciate this is a rapidly changing situation and we will keep our guidance updated to you as best we can. If you have any questions, then please email them to the school office as it is easier for us to respond in this way at the current time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Ruffle  
Headteacher