

# Coronavirus

## Information for Families

We are clearly facing challenging and uncertain times ahead, I am therefore writing to you to share measures that the school are implementing and some of the thinking around future plans.

You will be aware that the advice is changing regularly. School has no further information than what is available to you online so please keep yourself aware of the latest guidance via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

In particular there are currently sections for education, isolating in households and social distancing. As a school we have developed our measures based on this guidance, we have tried to balance this with the wellbeing of staff and pupils, and keeping the school open for families delivering essential services. It is highly likely this will change over the coming weeks so please keep checking and we will adapt as needed.

## Health & Concerns

While the current governmental view is that keeping schools open is important for the wider society, it is really important that families and staff take a responsible attitude to their own health and those around them.

### Should my child be in school?

- **NO** – if they or someone in your household has a diagnosis of Covid 19, has a new continuous cough or a high temperature – Everyone in the household should self-isolate for 14 days
- **NO** – if they have a pre-existing condition (see the guidance for the full list) and are more vulnerable, they should be taking social distancing measures
- **PROBABLY NOT** – if you are worried about them being in school and then having contact with someone who is vulnerable
- **POSSIBLY NOT** – if a household member has returned from overseas you need to look at the advice, travel from most high-risk areas has stopped anyway but if you are concerned talk to the school
- **YES** – if your child has no symptoms and there is non-one in your household who has any reason for concern

We know that this can be a very worrying time for families, while we have no additional information than you, please do ring us if you want to discuss your individual circumstances.

If your child displays any symptoms while at school, we will contact you immediately to pick them up and we will minimise their contact with other people in school.

The best way to minimise spread is still to **wash hands** thoroughly and regularly, catch coughs and sneezes and to keep surfaces clean – we are continuing to supervise regular hand washing and ensuring regularly touched surfaces are being wiped.

In addition, we would ask that children no longer bring in birthday fruit until further notice. We will also turn off the external water fountains so it is essential that your child (except EYFS) has a named water bottle in school every day.

## Measures to Support Social Distancing

In order to maximise social distancing as recommended by the government, we are instigating the following measures:

- We will start new arrival procedures from TOMORROW (Wednesday):
  - A member of staff will be on the bottom green gate on each site from the time the gates open - the top gate at WR will remain closed
  - Children on both sites will then go straight into classes from 8:30 (WR) and 8:45 (LRR) where an adult will be waiting
  - Parents/Carers who are dropping off are asked to say goodbye at the green gate rather than gather on the playground

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- At LRR, Year 2 and Falcons will all enter via the double glass doors. A member of the EYFS team (in hi-vis) will be at the top of the slope to help guide EYFS children to their classrooms
- Pick up at the end of the day will work in the usual way, but we do ask that parents are sensible in following the advice and leave the site as soon as they have collected their child. We will aim to lock the gates on both sites 5 mins after the end of the school day - 3:20 (WR) & 3:35 (LRR)
- All parents and families are asked to contact staff and the office by **email** or **phone** in the first instance rather than 'popping up to the office'; staff will aim to do the same
- As from today, we will no longer gather for service (assembly) – children will undertake activities with their own class
- We are cancelling most trips – year groups will be contacted specifically about those that relate to them
- We will cancel the Easter services at All Saints and Redland Park
- All imminent PTA events, starting with this Friday's cake sale, are postponed
- Staff training events have been cancelled
- All After School Activities will be **cancelled from the start of next week**
- We are in discussion with different regular visitors to the school, such as peripatetic music, and will contact individuals who may be impacted by any changes.

## Communicating Closures

- Parents/carers should always assume that school **is open** unless you hear otherwise, please do not ring school to check that we are open.
- We will always contact you about changes to school provision, this will be communicated via:
  - A display on the school website
  - A Parentmail Notification (if you use the app)
  - A parentmail email
- If we experience a significant reduction in staff, we would contact parents/carers to request that you only send your child to school if it is necessary i.e. to maintain frontline services.
- It may be that the school is required to close temporarily to all pupils. This could be for a deep clean or because the government or Public Health England have requested it, we will use the same channels listed above to inform you.

## Continuing Education

As a school, we are working hard to put in place measures that will minimise the impact of the current situation on children's learning. Listed below are details of how we intend to continue children's learning:

- We are aware that some children and staff have already followed the advice and are not currently in school. It is likely that these numbers may rise so we will need to continually evaluate the situation to ensure we have the correct staff to pupil ratio in order to deliver education and function safely. It may be that we need to arrange cover from somewhere else in the school or we need to combine classes.
- If your child is off school currently, we recommend that they maintain regular reading, and where appropriate - learn red words & other spellings, use Spelling Shed & Mathletics, learn times tables, practice number bonds, cook, make things etc. Our Year Group school website pages have more details of work and resources that will support your child's learning at home. We are very aware that staff are continuing to teach classes and therefore would not want to overburden them with producing lots of additional materials for children that may be absent. However, at this stage, if there is work that teachers are preparing for use in class that would be easy and logical to send home, then we will certainly do so.
- Over time, it may be that we have an increasing number of children at home or the school may close. We are already preparing for continuing learning at home via Google Classroom for the Juniors and email for the Infants. Some children may receive a pack of work or materials to support their learning at home for others this may be electronic. While pupil access to an electronic device may be useful, we are planning on providing a range of ways in which children can work as we appreciate that individual family circumstances may vary.
- We are planning to provide activities, ideas and resources for a range of subjects so that children can continue learning across the curriculum and it is important that they have regular breaks too.
- At school, we will be talking to children about the importance of learning so it would be good for you to reinforce this at home. If your child is at home, there should be an expectation that their learning

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continues. Having said that, we recognise that this may not be possible in cases where children are unwell or, particularly for younger children, where their parents are unwell or have their own work commitments.

- We will communicate further about these arrangements as the need arises.

## Other information

- It is important to be honest with your children when discussing the virus and its impact, but equally important to keep things in perspective. We would advise showing some of the online materials (emailed previously) and age appropriate media like Newsround. With so much disruption and media coverage children are bound to be curious so do have a discussion with them and answer their questions in an age appropriate way. Some children may be anxious so acknowledge this rather than dismissing this feeling (many adults are feeling it too), but then try to give some perspective . . . and a hug. It may also be good to talk about some of the many positive things that are happening, such as communities pulling together to help the vulnerable or singing on balconies!

In these difficult times, we all need to work together and remain determined and positive to help both the children and us as a community to get through the challenges ahead. The St. John's team are already working exceptionally hard and I would like to thank the staff for their time and thought. We will try to keep an appropriate level of communication as the situation develops. If you have any specific concerns or thoughts please do get in touch.