

Coronavirus Update



Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to update you on the further actions that the school is taking in regard to the Coronavirus. I am receiving daily updates from the Department for Education, and the Trust are providing support and guidance for all of their schools.

We are all aware of the implications the pandemic is having around the world and, as a school, we are following all Government advice, which at the moment is to stay open.

Your children, I am sure, will be asking you questions. We have prepared age-appropriate teaching materials about the Coronavirus for teachers to share with their classes in the coming days. These have been added to our website under the *Parents section: Coronavirus Updates*.

We are continuing to take precautions to minimise the risks to our school community by restricting non-essential visitors coming into school, until further notice. This includes cancelling the Mother's Day Lunch, scheduled for Thursday 26th March and the Multiplication Times Tables Check Parent Meeting, on Monday 23rd March. Following advice, I am also postponing our planned Parents' Evenings, until further notice. We will also be adjusting our lunch start times, to ensure that there are fewer children in our hall at the same time. We will also not be holding any whole school assemblies, including Celebration Assemblies, for the foreseeable future. At the moment, school trips are still being planned for, but may be cancelled at a later date.

We are encouraging regular hand washing, and are undertaking more regular cleaning of surfaces and door handles.

Please continue to use the up to date information that is provided by the following websites, regarding the current COVID-19 situation. These official sites are important public websites, so you can get the most up to date news, information and guidance to address any concerns you may have:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

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

Place Farm will only close in the event that the Government requires this, or the school experiences such high staff absence to make it not possible to open the school.

I have included in this update responses to some questions that parents have been asking, which you may find helpful. I will keep you updated, as information and advice is given.

Kind regards,

Jane Sendall
Headteacher

Calendar

March

Monday 23rd March: 2.30pm Year Four Multiplication Times Tables Check - Parent Information Meeting (details sent in separate letter) - **CANCELLED**

Tuesday 24th March: Parents' Evening (3.30pm-7.30pm) - **POSTPONED DATE TBC**

Thursday 26th March: Year One Trip to Colchester Zoo

Tuesday 31st March: Year Six Trip to Duxford

April

Thursday 2nd April: Parents' Evening (3.30pm-5.30pm) - **POSTPONED DATE TBC**

Friday 3rd April: Last day of the Spring term

Monday 20th April: First day of the Summer term

Wednesday 22nd April: Year Three trip to Shimpling Park Farm

Frequently Asked Questions

My child has a temperature/cold -should I keep them off school?

Please refer to the online NHS 111 service.

My child has asthma, should I keep them off school?

Please refer to: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Will work be sent home if my child is told to self-isolate?

If the decision is made by the Government to close schools, then the following steps will be taken:

The decision to close schools will be communicated to parents via: The school website and email.

Your child's education is important, and we want to ensure that packs of work/activities/ links to websites are given to your child to complete, if they are required to stay at home - more details to follow.

Will there be updates on the school website?

We will update our website by sharing updates in the Parents section: Coronavirus Updates.

How will parents be informed of a school closure?

If the decision is made by the Government to close schools, then the following steps will be taken:

The decision to close schools will be communicated to parents via: • The school website • Text message • Letter (if during the school week)

What precautions are being taken to ensure my child's health and safety within school?

We are continuing to take precautions to minimise the risks to our school community by restricting non-essential visitors coming into school, until further notice. We will also be adjusting our lunch start times (from Tuesday 17th March) to ensure that there are fewer children in our hall at the same time. We will also not be holding any whole school assemblies, including Celebration Assemblies, for the foreseeable future.

We are encouraging regular hand washing, and are undertaking more regular cleaning of surfaces and door handles.

If I/a child of mine is advised to self-isolate, should I keep the rest of my family at home? (e.g. siblings)

Please refer to: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19