



17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following yesterdays Government announcements, a new set of responses to the Coronavirus have been set out which may affect the education of the children at Durley School.

Firstly, ministers decided that anyone living in the same house as someone with Corona-like symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days. Given that the main two Coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature and a new, persistent cough) are also the symptoms of other illnesses, we anticipate that a growing number of both children and staff will be absent in the days ahead. Some children are already in isolation because either they or a member of their family is displaying these symptoms.

It is really important that you contact us on the first day of your child's absence, saying clearly the reason for the absence so that we can maintain accurate registers. We have been given a specific coding for the registers for any child absent due to the virus, which will be authorised. We have a safeguarding responsibility to children and need to know where they are and how they are. Woodwind and Brass lessons have been cancelled due to Mr Smith and Mrs Hall being in self-isolation.

Although at present all of our staff appear to be in good health, we could potentially be operating over the coming weeks with a depleted staff. We will keep you informed if we have to make changes to our current arrangements.

In order to minimise the spread of the virus we have decided to minimise the number of visitors inside the school building. As a result of this, we have postponed all additional activities including Mother's day lunch, Mother's Day Church service in school, Year 6 visit to Rock-up, the school disco, the School Easter Service in Holy Cross Church, the Year 5 and 6 Brecon Beacons assembly and the music concerts. All money paid can be carried forward. The DSA are still intending on going ahead with the village Bear Hunt, as we are able to go out for local walks and of course the Mother's Day sale for children on Friday afternoon at a cost of £2.00 per present.

It is likely that at some point in the days or weeks ahead, the Government will close all schools as part of a national shut down of schools and colleges.

Staff have been working on preparing 2 weeks of work packs, for children to take home in the event of a school closure. All work sent home can be self-marked.

To remind you from my previous letter, parents should still report an isolation absence to the school in the normal way, on only the first day of self-isolating, indicating how many days your child will be absent. We will then not require parents to contact again until the time period has passed.



# Durley

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Finally, I would like to ask you to continue to support our response to the Coronavirus by reminding your child of the need for thorough hygiene, for organising and supporting their learning if they are at home.

We need to work together to keep our children safe and calm and I therefore appreciate your co-operation with these new measures.

We will continue to update you when we receive further guidance from the Government.

Kind Regards

Kirstie Baines

Headteacher

