

**St Mark's C of E Junior School**

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Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Coronavirus Update

I am writing to you about our ongoing approach at St Mark's to the international spread of the Coronavirus, Covid-19.

We continue to follow all the appropriate guidelines from Public Health England and the guidance issued by the Department of Education with regard to how educational settings should handle the current situation. The guidance is updated daily and we will be posting the links to this via text, email and will endeavour to post on the school website so that parents always have easy access to the most up to date information available.

Health advice

We do not currently have any confirmed cases of Covid-19 within our school and we remain open as per the guidance. Hygiene is key to managing the risk. Our toilets are checked several times a day to ensure that there is adequate soap available for students to use and we would continue to encourage them to use it appropriately when needed. The daily cleaning routine in the school ensures that high contact areas, such as door handles, are disinfected regularly.

In addition, we would highlight the Government guidance issued today which states that if **one person in any household starts displaying symptoms:**

- a) Fever
- b) Dry cough
- c) Shortness of breath.

Everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days.

School and community trips

The government advice on school trips has been updated; as a result of our own risk assessment and the increased risk that has been recognised all trips are cancelled until further notice including local outings to places such as St Francis for the Easter Service.

Access to learning

As a school we have not yet finalised what will happen with access to learning materials. I will update parents tomorrow on our approach for those who are self-isolating. In the meantime there are excellent resources online for those with access e.g.

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/how-to-utilise-twinkl-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown-a-guide-for-schools>

Possible partial and full closure

We are monitoring the situation closely regarding staff absence. If the school reaches a point where there are a significant number of staff absent owing to self-isolation or illness, we will make a decision about closing for specific classes or the whole school for a day or more. At this stage we anticipate we will either cover internally with staff and stay open or to fully close. This is because we have to maintain the health and safety of children e.g. specific medical conditions (anaphylaxis), first aid as well as appropriate supervision across the school. We will keep you informed if we have to close even without a government directive for all schools to close. Such closures under these circumstances are likely to be short term only.

We will inform all parents immediately if and when the situation changes. Full school closure for a prolonged period is possible in the coming weeks but we will obviously wait until we are advised by the government or Local Authority.

In the meantime we have made the decision to minimise visitors to the school. This means that where possible meeting will take place via phone rather than face to face or if this is not possible they may need to be postponed until a time when the meeting can be rescheduled.

Finally, as information is altering by the day, we will update you as swiftly as we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school via phone:

t: 01722 333497

e: admin@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Gareth Flemington

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Headteacher