



St Thomas & St Anne's CE Primary School

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~ Caring, Growing and Learning Together ~

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid-19

Following the recent joint statement by the Prime Minister and Chief Medical and Scientific Advisers at the end of last week, you will be aware that the Government has moved into the 'delay' phase in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Current Government advice is that anyone with a new, continuous cough or high temperature is advised to self-isolate for seven days. For the safety of our whole school community, if your son/daughter shows relevant signs of infection, please do not bring them to school. I would urge all parents/carers to follow this advice please.

The following advice is available for further reference.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Key advice includes:

washing hands frequently with soap and water

covering coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin

people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting

pupils, students, staff and visitors washing their hands:

before leaving home

on arrival at school

after using the toilet

after breaks and sporting activities

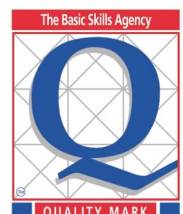
before eating any food, including snacks

before leaving school

avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

If anyone needs to self-isolate for seven days, further advice is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>



As the Government has stressed, this is a new disease and no-one has any immunity to it. The Government's chief scientific adviser has explained that we are in the very early stages of the epidemic in the UK and that this is likely to spread widely. I write to inform parents of the actions we intend to take, and may seek to take, as this situation develops.

We will continue to remind children of the need for good hand hygiene and social distancing. The pupils are currently washing their hands regularly throughout the day including on entry to and departure from school, before and after breaktimes, after using the toilet and after PE/Games. We are also talking to the children about social distancing.

There is the potential that as the advice from the Government is followed and families and individuals undertake a seven-day isolation, this could cause disruption to our service if/when staff and their families become unwell.

In turn, this could lead to disruption to our school. Our supervision levels, school meals provision, First Aid cover, cleaning regime and before school provision could all be affected at different times and this may cause disruption. If this should happen we will alert parents as soon as possible and advise parents of the actions they need to take. We would ask that parents and carers bear with us during what is predicted to be a challenging and uncertain time. We will be adding a special page to the school website to provide details of any actions that parents need to be aware of and will provide updates to this. We will also alert parents of any disruption via text and/or email. Please can you ensure that we have up to date contact details. This is particularly important if we have to send children home should they become ill and display symptoms during the course of the school day. They will then not be able to return to school for seven days.

We recognise the essential childcare service that schools provide and we are keen to preserve this. We will therefore do all that we possibly can to maintain our provision where we can. At this stage the DfE and PHE have advised that schools remain open. Should this advice be amended, we will let you know as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your understanding during this period, which presents with challenging circumstances for everyone.

Best regards,

Kate Budd