

Dear Parents,

With the rapidly changing advice regarding Coronavirus, I thought it was worth writing to prepare you for any changes the school may have to consider in the coming days and weeks. Please ensure that you read to the end of this lengthy communication.

The Government advice last week was largely expected and included a greater emphasis on self-isolation. Essentially, we have been directed to send home any child or adult with a fever or persistent cough. If this should happen, the advice is that self-isolation should then follow for a period of a full week. This will obviously affect children, parents and staff and therefore could impact on the day-to-day running of the school. If in doubt of your child's symptoms please call NHS 111 or online at 111.nhs.uk. Our staff are not medical practitioners and therefore cannot give medical diagnosis.

We have now been informed that there are a small number of children across the school who are being self-isolated either because there are family members who are very vulnerable, or because we have been informed that they have started to show symptoms of fever and persistent cough.

After drop off, please leave the school site promptly. We are seeking to avoid the school community coming together in large numbers and at peak times.

Please use the school office email or phone number to communicate with us, rather than coming into school unless you absolutely need to. Should you not get a quick response, please understand that it will be because we are busy supporting children and/or staff. Please also remember you can drop documents off in the school post box, which is emptied every day. I know this all sounds very anti-social, but these are hopefully short-term measures that will enable us all to stay fit for work and school, for as long as possible.

For the moment, we are allowing music teachers and sports coaches to continue to come into school having received a clear understanding of the action they are taking, but we will continue to review the situation daily and as we know more.

We currently plan to go ahead with our Parents Evening appointments on Tuesday 24th March and Wednesday 25th March, but would ask you not to attend if you feel unwell in any way. We would also ask that you time your arrival so that you arrive just in time for your appointment. In return, I will be asking all staff to rigidly stick to the 10 minute appointment slot. Any further discussions can be followed up in a telephone conversation. Please wait in the hall (Year 2) or corridors (other year groups) until you are called through by the teacher.

At this point I think it is important to add context and reality. Despite the Education Minister's announcement that schools will remain open for the time being, we are doing what we must, including preparing for a national closure. I have shared our current and ever changing action plan with the staff team. This includes planning for how and when we will communicate with parents and vice versa, health and safety elements and what action would be taken should staff fall ill. We are currently compiling work that will be

shared with all children via our school website or on Parentmail. This will be a mix of website links, very important spellings, phonics games and some suggested non screen activities that the children can try. **At the time of any closure** we will send the children home with any resources that may be relevant to their age or stage. The majority of the staff team have young families or dependants, so we will do our very best to balance supporting our school community as well as our own families.

With this in mind, **it is important that you make us aware if your child will not have access to a computer to view this work and please make sure we have your correct email address and ensure you are checking your ParentMail regularly.** During this period we will endeavour to use ParentMail for only essential communication, so when you get an alert, please read the messages carefully.

Please send any amendments to your contact details to:

office@christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk

Finally, please can I ask you to speak to us directly if you are worried or concerned or have any further questions. Be assured that if there is something we all need to know - or if there is something that potentially increases the risk for you or your child - we will share that information ASAP and act upon it.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the staff team during this time, it is hugely appreciated. Whatever challenges we may face in the next week or so, I feel confident that we will meet these together.

Kindest regards

Mr Baxter