



Dear Parents

Christ Church Federation Information Regarding Coronavirus

As you can appreciate, the situation regarding coronavirus is changing on a daily basis. New guidance was announced this week to help slow and prevent the spread of the virus and I felt it might be appropriate to update parents on the situation.

Importantly, our school continues to follow Government advice and will remain open unless directed otherwise by the Government or Public Health England.

New guidance announced by the Government on Monday 16 March relates to self-isolation if anyone in your household shows symptoms of coronavirus, and the introduction of a number of 'social distancing measures' aimed at reducing the spread of the disease.

Individuals will still be asked to self-isolate for seven days from the point they first display symptoms of coronavirus – a new, continuous cough or a high temperature (37.8 degrees centigrade or higher).

However, now all individuals in the household are required to self-isolate for 14 days from that moment as well.

If other members of the household develop similar symptoms, however mild, at any time during the 14 days, they must not leave the home for seven days from when their symptoms started.

The Government is taking these measures as it is likely that people living with others will infect each other, or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the school and wider community.

I would therefore ask that if your child or anyone in your household, develops a new, continuous cough or has a raised temperature that you keep your child at home for 14 days. Please be assured their absence will be recorded as an authorised absence.

Individuals do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation, and don't go to your GP or hospital. If your child's symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after seven days, contact NHS 111 online at <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>. If you have no internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

You will appreciate that as a school we must do all we can to look after the health and wellbeing of our children. If a pupil falls ill during the school day with either a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, we will send them home to self-isolate as a precaution as per the guidance above. Should this be required, we would appreciate the support of the child's parents in ensuring this happens as quickly as possible.

We anticipate that some pupils will be absent from school over the next few weeks with potential symptoms of coronavirus. While it's important to remember that these could equally be symptoms of one of the many winter illnesses which we usually expect to see at this time of year, it's important we act with caution.

The Government has also set out a number of social distancing measures to reduce the risk of infection from the spread of coronavirus. Therefore, in school we have cancelled events and activities that would result in children being exposed to additional adults or children. We appreciate that parents will have paid for trips and visits and we will send out further details about how we will manage these payments in the next few weeks.

It is important that we protect our children and our staff and therefore request that **if you have any messages or queries you make contact with the school office by telephone rather than approaching staff directly on the playground.** Although we would normally operate an open door policy in the current

circumstances we need to avoid as much direct contact with our staff as possible, so that they remain fit and well and able to care for the children.

In school, we are continuing to promote 'hand hygiene' with everyone being encouraged to regularly wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and hot water. To reduce the spread of germs when children cough or sneeze, they are asked to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue (or their sleeve, but not their hands, if they don't have a tissue) and to throw the tissue away immediately. We have been promoting these hygiene measures using Government approved e-Bug teaching resources.

Our school cleaning routine has been adjusted with a thorough clean of all surfaces with an approved sanitiser spray taking place at the end of each working day. Door handles are also being wiped regularly throughout the school day. We also have a deep cleaning strategy in place.

We are currently making plans to provide work for children who are self-isolating at home and unable to attend school. We have set up a page on the home page of our website titled **'Children's Work Portal'**. Teachers are planning learning tasks that the children will be able to access through the portal and complete at home. This facility will be used to provide work and activities to all children should the school be instructed to close by the Government or Public Health England. We will be sending home an exercise book with every child in Years 1 to 6 today along with this letter so that if we are instructed to close out of school hours our families have everything they need to access the work and activities. Reception children should continue to use their purple book. Once school's reopen each child will be required to bring the work that they have completed back to school for monitoring. Parents are encouraged to mark the work as the children complete it and where necessary answer sheets will be provided for Key Stage 2 children.

If you would like more information about Coronavirus, please visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus or www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/coronavirus. Parents can also call the Department for Education coronavirus helpline for general advice and guidance by calling 0800 046 8687 between 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) or e-mailing: dfc.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk .

Please do contact me via the main school office if you have any concerns or queries, and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

S Blower

Mrs S Blower
Executive Head Teacher