

Slindon Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Lucy Cooper

Dear Parents and Carers

16th March 2020

As you will have read in the newsletter for the Spring Term, I have been absent from school following an operation and am due to come back on Thursday 19th March. I have been in constant communication with staff and I am sure you will join me in thanking them for managing the school so well, in my absence and during this difficult time of the Coronavirus.

After watching the Coronavirus update this evening, and in the knowledge that schools are still not being closed, I would like to add a few changes to our routines. I will be at school tomorrow to oversee these changes as outlined on the second page.

As I communicated in an earlier email, we have been acutely managing the cleanliness of the school since before the half-term break. We purchased extra Dettol resources to clean the school throughout the day, the school and carpets were 'deep-cleaned' for a number of days over the holiday and staff have implemented rigorous hand-washing procedures throughout the day with the children. The further changes we will make will extend beyond this and are in line with the 'social distancing' policy that we have been advised to adhere to this evening.

With regard to absence, if you choose to keep your child/children absent from school due to understandable fears or because you feel it necessary for your household to self-isolate, then we completely understand. We would like to request that you just let us know that you are a) self-isolating for 14 days or b) have chosen not to bring your children to school at this time. There will be no referrals for Fixed Penalty Notices during this time, we just would like to know that your child/ children are safe and when we should expect them to return to school.

The guidance from the government to self-isolate for 14 days has, and will continue to have, an effect on our staffing. Therefore, whilst we are requested to stay open, there may be necessary changes that we need to make to cover any staff absence. We have been covering Teaching Assistants from a supply agency, who themselves are struggling to meet the demands of school absences. Therefore, if necessary, we may need to join classes together although we don't feel this is something that we want nor hopefully need to do.

The government guidance to stop non-essential contact with others suggests that we should not be taking the children swimming. Therefore, for the last two swimming sessions of the term, we will not be going. Any money that you have already paid will go towards future lessons. If refunds are requested we ask that, where possible, you allow us to organise these after the Easter holidays. I will update Parents/Carers before the end of this week with regard to the Residential due to take place next week.

The teaching staff have already begun to use their PPA (Planning Preparation and Assessment) time to enable children to complete school work at home and I will update you further in the coming weeks with regard to this. We will not do this whilst we are expected to keep the school open.

Lastly, these are indeed worrying times. All we can do is behave as responsibly as we can and look out for each other. We have to trust in what we are being asked to do. I hope that this letter reassures you that we understand your concerns, as they are ours too. I will keep you updated as and when I have further news.

With best wishes

Lucy Cooper
Headteacher

School Routines from Tuesday 17th March 2020



- New routines for the beginning and end of the day.

A member of staff will be at the school gate (next to the Nature Garden) to see children into school. Instead of going onto the playground, children will come straight into school and wash their hands immediately. Teaching Assistants will supervise the younger children. Children will then go straight into class.

We ask that you ensure that children wash their hands before leaving home and that you ensure that you do not let children come into school before 8.45am. This allows us to ensure that a staff member is on the gate. Please also ensure that you see your child coming through the gate. In doing this you are more quickly able to drop your child off and return home, minimising contact with others.

At the end of the day, please continue to collect your child from the playground, but stand away from other Parents/Carers. Continuing to hand the children back to you via the playground is the safest way to return your children to you.

- Reduction in visitors to the school.

We will reduce the number of unnecessary visitors to the school, this includes Parents/Carers in the school building. We will ask volunteers not to come in during this period.

- Changes to collective worship/ assemblies.

We will change our assemblies and collective worship to class assemblies, rather than meet altogether in The Glade. Our Easter Service at St Mary's Church will be cancelled. Parents/ Carers evening will be postponed as will the SATs Information Meetings. As a staff, we will discuss how we will make alternative communication, if necessary.

Remember to refer to the NHS website for information <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Stay at home for 14 days if you have either:

- A high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
 - A new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly
- Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.
You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.