



17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you will appreciate from the unfolding situation we are currently in, we are in a period of time that will pose unprecedented challenges to us all. The purpose of this letter is to outline the steps that are being taken in school to protect all members of the school community and to prepare, as far as possible for the challenges ahead. **As always, the school website and mobile app will be the way in which information is communicated to you. Please ensure that you have access to the School Spider APP and that you check the news section regularly.**

The national situation regarding COVID-19 is developing on a daily basis, and there are a lot of uncertainties and unknowns. The Prime Minister, in his Press Conference has indicated that schools will remain open in the short term but he has not ruled out a national closure at some point if it was deemed beneficial.

The latest government guidance has stated that all members of a household should self-isolate for 14 days if any member of the family develops a continuous, dry cough and/or a high temperature. Further guidance around this can be found on the NHS website. Should your child be self-isolating we will send home a pack of work for children to complete at home.

In the event of your child falling ill at school, it will be essential that they are collected immediately. Please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that all contact numbers are up to date. If you are not sure if we have the correct number, please contact the office and they will check it will you.

Changes In School Until Easter

- All formal events involving parents coming up to school up to the end of the term are now cancelled. This includes parents' evening and assemblies.
- All whole school assemblies have been cancelled in school.
- All inter-school sport has been suspended for the rest of the term by Rossendale Schools' Sports Partnership.
- At this stage, extra-curricular clubs will still be on although as the situation develops there may be a need to cancel these.
- School will be cancelling all non-urgent and statutory meetings in school in order to reduce the number of visitors into school.
- Children will be asked to wash their hands more frequently in school and good hygiene is being discussed daily.
- All school trips and visits to Easter have been cancelled and parents will receive a refund for these trips.



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It is the aim of Britannia Community Primary School to keep the school operating to enable parents to avoid taking time off work unless absolutely necessary. At present, most of the teachers are in school so the normal curriculum will be taught. However, if we have some teacher absences, a modified curriculum may have to be delivered which may include consolidating and revising previously taught concepts by Teaching Assistants. The curriculum may also have to be modified if we have a high level of pupil absence with the majority of a year group absent.

If staffing and pupil absence rates are very high, it may be necessary to put children from different year groups together under the supervision of a teacher or Teaching Assistants. This will make it very difficult to deliver the normal curriculum in any form and the children will be engaged in different educational tasks or other activities. If there are insufficient members of staff to secure the safety of the children, a short term partial closure of one or more year groups may be required. Should this be the situation, you will be informed by the school website and the mobile School Spider APP.

NATIONAL CLOSURE

Presently, there are no current government plans for a school closure. However, in the event of a school closure I have asked the teachers to prepare a work pack for the children to cover a period of time with an exercise book. These packs will include a piece of maths, English and other curriculum area for each day. If we get a notification of a school closure, these packs will be sent home with the children to complete.

The teachers may also set work on the school webpage and will upload the answers for the children. We are currently in the process of looking at and teaching the children ways to communicate with the teacher directly through School Spider through an individual login for each pupil. This would also be a way of them submitting their written work. Teachers will be trialling this with their classes over the course of the next few weeks and you may receive further information about this in due course.

If your child does not have access to the internet from home it is essential that you let their teacher know.

Community Support

As a community school, we are also seeking to gain some support from you all to help the vulnerable people and families in the area in the event of the situation escalating. We are asking families, if possible, to send in one or two non- perishable items (much like we do at Harvest) that could be distributed to families and the elderly in need should they be needed over the next few months.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and rest assured that we will continue to act on the daily advice and updates from the Department for Education, and pass on any relevant information to you via the website and School Spider APP.

Yours sincerely

N.Longstaff

Headteacher

