



17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the Prime Minister's announcements yesterday (16.3.2020), I am writing to update you on how we are addressing the new Government guidance to ensure the safety of our school.

School will remain open

The school will remain open unless the government directs otherwise, or we believe that it is not safe to do so. Decisions will be informed by advice given by Government, the LA and Public Health England and will be influenced by staffing and pupil numbers. We will closely monitor the situation and will adapt teaching and learning accordingly. This may mean classes being restructured and the curriculum being adjusted to ensure the school remains open to pupils. We would ask that you continue to support us during these unprecedented times. We will keep you informed as much as possible, either by text, email or via the school website.

School trips and events

School trips planned to the end of the summer term will be either cancelled or postponed till the Autumn. Schools will be in touch about this once more information is available. We have also taken the decision to cancel whole school assemblies and clubs for the foreseeable future as well as Year 2 and Year 6 Booster sessions and the Year 3 and 4 Musical Extravaganza which was due to take place on 30th March. Whilst we appreciate this will be disappointing, we feel it is better to address this now and be prepared for all eventualities.

Self-isolation

Individuals self-isolating due to having symptoms, now impacts the whole family. So, if you have someone in your household with a high temperature (over 37.5 degrees) or a new continuous cough, the whole household must isolate for **14 days**. You will understand that necessary measures need to be taken and thank you in advance for taking precautions in avoiding the spread of the virus through attendance at school.

Whilst your child is in isolation, and you have informed us of this arrangement, it won't be necessary to call us again unless your circumstances change. Teachers and staff will call you during this period to maintain contact as required. Although this may seem unnecessary considering the current circumstances, it is a very important part of safeguarding policies and is required to ensure the wellbeing and safety of your child when they would otherwise be attending school.

School phone lines are open 24/7 and parents are able to leave a voicemail if they are unable to speak to a member of staff. Children's attendance will be coded based on circumstances and therefore may appear in a number of ways on their end of year attendance report:

I (illness) - children who are absent due to being too unwell for school

Y (exceptional circumstances) - children who have been advised by their doctor or 111 to self-isolate based on their symptoms

O (unauthorised) - when a parent/guardian chooses to self-isolate their child as a precaution, irrelevant of symptoms or guidance

Supporting your child at home during self-isolation

Although your child will be absent, their educational wellbeing is still of vital importance. As a result, schools will be taking steps to ensure that your child's absence impacts as little as possible on their learning. As a school, we are preparing home learning packs of work for your child to complete at home whilst they are in isolation. We are also adding links and suggested activities on to the Pupil Zone Area of our school website www.parklandprimary.co.uk in the Home Learning Area. We appreciate that technology might not be freely available and you may have more than one child at home so activities not requiring a computer/laptop will also be included. Please bear with us whilst we organise resources and arrange to get packs to you.

Should you have any queries regarding the work set for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school office via telephone or email and we will ask your child's class teacher to contact you as soon as possible. As always, your child should continue to read with you, a minimum of 5 days a week; if you would like a new reading book sent home for your child, please contact the school who can arrange this with the class teacher.

We are also in the process of preparing guidance, activities and resources in case the decision is made to close schools. We will write to you again in due course with further details about this.

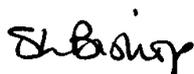
It is essential that we have up to date contact details for you and ask that if there have been any recent changes to your mobile phone numbers/email addresses, you get in touch with the school office as soon as possible.

Further support

We understand how stressful this time of uncertainty can be. We will be putting information on our website with some useful contacts for you should you need support from other services and helpful organisations during these extraordinary times.

Thank you again in advance of your continued support and patience.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S Bishop
Headteacher