

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with the latest update on how we are managing the Coronavirus Pandemic here at CtS. This is a continuously changing picture and the government has now announced that there will be daily briefings and sharing of information. In his first daily briefing, yesterday afternoon, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced significant new measures.

This morning the Trustees of the ODBST held an emergency meeting to review all the available information and have also given us some clear direction:

- Unless we are directly advised to close by Public Health England Health Protection Team all educational settings should remain open
- Staff, young people and children should stay at home for 14 days if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Anyone who lives with someone displaying coronavirus symptoms should also stay at home for 14 days. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
- If staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home

At school we are undertaking some additional precautions including:

- Ensuring the school is thoroughly cleaned every evening by our fantastic cleaning team who are currently doing a brilliant job
- Ensuring soap dispensers and sanitising hand wash is available in the cloakrooms and halls for lunch times
- Reminding children to wash their hands regularly, not to touch their faces and to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze
- Isolating children who show symptoms until they can be collected
- Cancelling assemblies that involve parents coming into school
- Cancelling some of our reader helpers and other activities where the leaders are over the age of 70.
- Checking on and maintaining a register of children's absenteeism so we can monitor the local picture – following up with any advice issued by the government

We will endeavour to keep the school open for as long as possible but as discussed in my previous letter what happens in school may have to change on a daily basis. We will also work to keep the children safe but this could mean some mixed age classes, teaching outside the curriculum and in some cases activities that support health and fitness or PSHE and not academic learning. If we are unable to offer safe staff to pupil ratios we may have to close some classes or part close. This may need to happen at short notice so please take some time to review your child care options in case of emergencies.

This week we have had some trouble contacting some parents on the numbers supplied. It is really important we have your most up to date contact details and you are contactable on at least one of the numbers throughout the day.

If the school should have to close we will notify you as soon as possible. If we do close the school we will direct you to activities you can do at home to support your children in their learning. During periods of self-isolation we will not be setting individual home learning. Please continue to support your children with daily reading, tables and number fact practise, writing stories, letters, book and film reviews. Keeping diaries in pictures and words, art and craft activities and junk modelling. Our website also has some useful learning links.

Every day there is new information and guidance being offered and we are doing our best to respond to the guidance in order to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. We understand that self-isolation for whole families up to 14 days is a huge challenge, for parents as well as children. These are extraordinary times and call for extraordinary measures and responses from everyone. We will do our best to keep you as informed as possible over the coming days and weeks. We would also like to thank all the parents and Carers who have been so supportive and understanding during this difficult period.

Thank fully we have most staff in school, fit and well and we have no confirmed cases of coronavirus amongst staff or children.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Quirk