



St. George's Church of England Primary School *Learning for Life*

Headteacher – Mrs R Keitch

Brook Street, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex. CO7 7HX

Telephone: (01206) 230305 Fax: (01206) 231437

Email: admin@st-georges-pri.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.st-georges-pri.essex.sch.uk

17th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to update you on the current situation regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

These are very strange times. I would like to assure you that I understand your concerns and that we are serious about keeping children, and staff, safe by following the best advice available. As you are aware, this advice is changing on a daily basis in response to the developing situation.

Latest government advice (16.03.2020 briefing)

Yesterday afternoon, the Prime Minister announced the following changes:

- If any member of a family shows symptoms (***new continuous cough or high temperature***) the advice is that the **whole** household should self-isolate for 14 days. This is to help to protect others in the community.
- Women who are pregnant have been advised to avoid social contact where possible
- An announcement about particular groups of people is expected later this week; these groups include:
 - Those who are pregnant
 - Have serious underlying health conditions
 - Are aged over 70
- Schools are to stay open

Absence and attendance

If your child is absent from school because your family is self-isolating, they must stay at home for 14 days. This will be coded as absence due to 'exceptional circumstances' and will be authorised. We have not yet been given guidance regarding absence which extends beyond this 14 day isolation period.

Any child or staff member in school with a new continuous cough, a high temperature or who develops shortness of breath will be sent home from school and will be expected to follow the Government guidance.

If any member of your family or friends network tests positive for the Covid-19 virus, please inform the school office so that we can take advice from Public Health England.

Precautionary changes to routine

- We are requesting that parents do not come into the classrooms. If you need to speak to a member of staff, please come to the school office
- Hand washing will continue to be supervised and children will be doing this on arrival at school, before and after break and lunch. They will also be reminded to wash them after going to the toilet and after sneezing or coughing
- We are minimizing external visitors to the school
- After-school clubs have been cancelled from today. There are two reasons for this:
 1. Many of our sport clubs are run by outside agencies (see previous point)
 2. Teachers are prioritising contingency planning.

School closure

At present, schools remain open. As long as we have sufficient staff to function, St George's will be open, until the Government orders school closures. Over the coming days and weeks, this may mean combining classes and changing timetables. I will keep you informed of any changes we need to make.

Contingency plans for school closures

I am working closely with my teachers and the Local Authority to finalise plans for providing work and guidance for school closure and for children self-isolating. It is important to ensure that the measures we put in place are manageable and sustainable for you as families and for school staff. As soon as our plans have been agreed and finalised, I will write to you again. For those of you whose children are already at home, please bear with us.

Thank you for your continued support and calm in these uncertain times. I will continue to update you as soon as I have further information.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs R Keitch
Headteacher