



MEADGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Executive Headteacher: Mr. J. J. Figg

Friday 13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus Update

Further to our correspondence in newsletters and via our website we thought it would be advisable to provide the following information and updates.

As you are aware the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is now a global pandemic. Please be assured that we are monitoring the situation extremely closely every day and will keep reviewing our plans. We are committed to keeping our children, staff and the wider school community safe and healthy and we will continue to provide you with regular updates as we receive them from the Local Authority (LA), the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE).

You may wish to check the following link to GOV.UK's COVID-19 guidance for educational settings:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19b

We are concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of everyone at this time of uncertainty and heightened anxiety. We have therefore attached the WHO's information about coping with stress during the COVID-19 outbreak. At times like these we need to remember that we are all anxious about this situation and this includes school staff. We must all ensure that we understand each other's situations during these anxious times ahead and be polite, courteous and look out for each other.

I would like to take this opportunity to update parents/carers about our existing plans and emergency planning at Meadgate Primary School.

What prevention steps have been taken?

- Assemblies and lessons have taken place for all year groups about the importance of: washing hands properly, cleanliness and personal hygiene and how to minimise the spreading of an infection. These have been taught at an age appropriate level following information from the DfE and PHE.
- Government posters have been placed around the school to remind staff, pupils and visitors about the importance of hand washing.
- Hand sanitisers are available throughout the school, including in the foyer for visitors, with more currently on order.
- Soap dispensers in all toilets are checked twice a day
- Cleaners spend over 7 hours a day ensuring that the school is cleaned thoroughly, especially in areas where pupils spend the majority of their time. Door handles, door plates, stair handrails, light switch plates and school desks are regularly cleaned throughout the school day.
- Regular communication to parents/carers via the school website and newsletters
- Regular hand washing throughout the school day

What about school trips?

Following the government's ban on school trips overseas we have cancelled the Belgium 2020 trip and parents/carers will receive a full refund. Please give us time to process these refunds as we need to liaise with the travel operator and our insurance company.

At this time any trip within the UK will be going ahead until we are told that it cannot. This includes our residential trips later in the summer term. However, this is obviously subject to government advice as we move into the summer term.

What do I need to do if I am advised that my child needs to self-isolate?

Following the government's advice on 12th March 2020, your children should be self-isolating if they have a persistent, new cough that does not go away and/or a high temperature. If this is the case you should contact the school immediately.

What will happen regarding my child's attendance?

The current attendance regulations from the Government and LA compliance team state that schools may authorise absence:

- If this has been professionally advised by NHS111 or a GP
- Where there is justification to self-isolate as determined by the latest government guidance

In all other circumstances, for example, if your child is not unwell and you choose to not send them into school, it is highly unlikely that absence will be authorised. We will of course keep up-to-date with this advice and adapt it as necessary as the situation develops.

What would happen if there are not enough staff to teach my child?

There will be staff that are told to self-isolate following advice from the health professionals and government guidance. We will monitor this situation on a daily basis to ensure we have enough staff in school. We are fortunate that we work within a trust of six schools and we may need to share staff to ensure that each school can maintain the correct levels of support and care.

This situation will inevitably cause disruption as the academic year progresses and we ask that parents/carers consider the impact that this will have on staff, especially those asked to cover classes and one-to-one pupil support.

When would the school be closed?

We continue to receive daily updates from the LA and DfE as well as PHE who will make the decision about the forced closure of schools. Please note that this is not our decision and we do not have the ability to override this decision despite our personal views on the situation. The decision is PHE's and not ours.

If there are significant numbers of cases at the school an assessment of the school will be undertaken by PHE's protection team and senior members of school staff. Advice on the management of pupils and staff will be based on this assessment.

How will I be informed of a school closure?

If we are told to close by PHE you will be notified by:

- Email
- Notification on the school website

We will not be posting any information on social media. You will receive a direct message from us.

Please make sure that we have up-to-date information for you in the event that we have to close the school.

How would work be set for my child in the event of a forced school closure?

Staff will set regular work for your children and upload this to their class page on the school website. We would expect pupils to work at home each day completing the activities that have been set. These activities may be written tasks or activities using the online learning resources available.

If you do not have internet access at home please let the school office know ASAP.

When will the school open and how will I be informed?

The school will reopen following instruction from the DfE and PHE. Parents/Carers will be informed by:

- Email
- Notification on the school website

Please be assured that we are doing everything possible to keep our school community safe. We will respond swiftly and calmly to government advice and we ask that parents/carers do the same in these times of anxiety for everyone, including school staff. We ask that you share any developments within your own families with us.

Thank you for your support



Mr Joseph Figg
Executive Headteacher