



17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

We are living through some challenging times at present and we are writing to let you know what measures are being put into place to safeguard the health of the whole school community in line with advice from the government, diocese and local authority.

1. All staff and children will wash their hands thoroughly on entry to school in the morning and at key points throughout the day under the direction of staff. They will also be asked to wash their hands before leaving the building. Children may bring handcream to school in case of need.
2. Reach for the Stars provision will continue as long as the school is open; they are adopting the same hygiene measures as the school.
3. All events outside the school premises have been cancelled; this includes swimming, PE at Bluecoat and the Y3/4 Mothers' Day service scheduled to be held in church on Friday.
4. The Open Afternoon scheduled for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March has been cancelled.
5. All clubs have been cancelled for the foreseeable future (**Recorders is on this afternoon**).
6. Collective worship will be conducted in class.
7. The school is closed to all but essential visitors with effect from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March.
8. No meetings will take place involving parents or governors with effect from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Special needs reviews will take place internally and the outcomes shared via email or telephone.
9. Please limit face-to-face contact with the school office; where possible, communications should take place via email or telephone.

### **Self-isolation**

In line with government advice, any child or member of staff displaying symptoms should self-isolate for fourteen days. **All family members, including siblings, must also be isolated and should not enter the school premises for any reason.**

If a child displays symptoms in school, we will take their temperature and, if there is evidence of fever or persistent cough, we will ask you to collect them immediately. Please consider how you will respond to such a request – if a child or member of staff has symptoms, it is vital that they leave the premises without delay.

If you choose to self-isolate your family as a result of concerns about your child or family members being at greater risk, we will support your decision.

Do not worry about your children's attendance record at this challenging time; all absences for reasons of self-isolation will be authorised.

Staff are under increased pressure at the current time and so, for this reason, we will not set work to be completed at home as a matter of course. If their planning includes something which may be suitable for completion at home, it will be sent to you.

### **School Closures**

There is still uncertainty around the closing of schools. I would like to assure you that staff and governors have a plan which will be implemented in the event of closure. In this case, we will maintain communications with you via Parentmail and work will be set for completion at home via the school website as long as staff are fit to work. We would not expect children to complete this work if they are unwell.

Governors have considered at what point the safe operation of the school would be compromised: should absence among staff reach a certain point, it may be necessary to close the school.

Your support and co-operation at this difficult time is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs HR Simms  
Headteacher

Mr R Carter  
Chair of Governors