



St Margaret's

Church of England Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs G Smith

16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE Covid-19 – School measures

Thank you for your ongoing support during this challenging time. We really appreciate the emails and kind words we have received from many of you.

As the situation is so fluid and changing quickly, we have decided to introduce more regular updates for parents and carers via email. We feel that information in the newsletter, once a week, is not frequent enough because of how quickly matters are changing and may continue to change. We hope that this approach to good communication is reassuring for parents.

I'm sure you are all more than aware of the news regarding Coronavirus. Current Government plans are **not to shut schools**. There has been very clear guidance issued that adults and children are required to self-isolate for 7 days if they display any mild symptoms of the virus.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- * new continuous cough and/or
- * high temperature (37.5 or above)

If your child has symptoms of the coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, they should stay home for 7 days from when their symptoms started. It is important that we all follow this guidance in order to safeguard our entire school community and I know I can count on your support in this. If you are concerned in anyway please phone NHS 111.

If you haven't already done so please inform the school as soon as possible if you are isolating your child or of any changes. After 7 days, if your child is no longer displaying symptoms they can return to school. Likewise, if we are concerned about a child's health in school we will contact their parents/carers immediately.

At St Margaret's we are already ensuring that:

- *Additional cleaning is in place
- *Access to hand hygiene is available in all classrooms and around the school – the children have all had specific lessons in good hand hygiene (NHS video) and are reminded regularly throughout the day.

I am sure you will agree that we are in unprecedented circumstances so in order to safeguard the children as much as we are able to we will also be implementing the following:

- *Reducing time spent on the carpet where possible (this will be less possible in EYFS and Nursery)
- *Whole school worships will be reduced and possibly cancelled for a limited time



* Educational visits will be considered carefully in future. There will be no visits this half term. Where they involve children being amongst large groups of other people they will be cancelled – Cross Country on Tuesday is therefore cancelled as you were informed this morning. Swimming did take place today but will review weekly.

*All school events involving parents will be cancelled for the foreseeable future such as Rock Up and Read on Friday mornings, Stay and Play in Nursery on Friday 20th March, Rhyme Time on Monday mornings. **Parents Evening next week will be postponed** however reports will still go out on Friday as planned. We will re-arrange parents evening in due course. This is to limit footfall into the school building in order to safeguard everyone.

*Staggered play and lunch times have been introduced from today.

*Ringing parents immediately if we are concerned a child may be showing symptoms and asking for them to be collected

Those of you who had paid for the Cross Country transport will be refunded via school money ASAP but please bear with us.

Our office team are receiving a high number of telephone calls at the moment. Please be patient with them if they are not able to respond to you as quickly as normal.

We appreciate the support that we have had from many of you today in what is an unprecedented circumstance. Please be assured that everything we are putting into place is in the best interest of the health and safety of all children and staff.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs G Smith
Head Teacher

