



Purley Church of England (VC) Primary School

"Let all that you do be done in love" 1 Corinthians 16:14

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Headteacher: Mrs K Fakes

16th March 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to update you on the latest information concerning Coronavirus including specific advice from Public Health England (PHE), and to outline our plans as a school for the coming weeks. At the moment, it is very difficult to predict what might happen in the next few days and weeks, but please be assured that we have taken steps in school to plan as best as we can for future events and would appreciate your support and understanding. We are working extremely hard to minimise risk and to adopt a calm approach to the situation.

School trips and sporting events

We are planning to continue with all planned school events in the foreseeable future until we are advised by the government not to allow travel to, or attendance at, events.

Contacting the School

Parents should contact the school about any symptoms their own child (or members of their immediate family) is experiencing or about the need for self-isolation. This will help us plan for any action we need to take.

Contingency Planning

The government is planning for a range of future scenarios, one of which includes the possibility of temporary school closures. At the moment, they are suggesting that will happen when the number of cases peaks. However, to date the government's preference is to keep schools open, to minimise the effect of parents having to take time off work.

If we do have to close however, please note the following:

Day to day communication: We will have access to parents via Parentmail and will keep you updated. This, alongside our website, will provide up to date information. Please ensure that you check these regularly. All families will be sent a message in the event of a closure and the subsequent re-opening of the school

Pupil Learning

- It is vital that if the school closes, pupils continue to work at home. Whilst there is no substitute for being in a classroom with a teacher, we will set work regularly through our learning platforms (Purple Mash and Abacus).
- We will remind all pupils of their log in details to access their accounts. The children have been set up with individual logins for Purple Mash – these will be sent home in case of closure
- Parents can help prepare by making sure their child has access to the learning platforms from home should the need arises. Ideally this would be using a laptop, pc or tablet. In order to help us

Learn to love, love to learn



prepare, we would like you to confirm what technology would be available to your child at home. A separate form will be sent via Parentmail shortly.

Pupil welfare

Pupils may well become more concerned about the situation as the government consider moving through the different phases of their action plan. We all have a role to play in managing this. You know your son and daughter best but together we should:

- Do our best not to sensationalise or overdramatise this issue
- Steer pupils away from some of the news coverage
- Stick to known facts when talking to our children
- Not pass on our concerns / stresses
- There are many useful articles available for parents to use with children on sites such as CBBC and Newsround.

Examinations

This is an area where we are still awaiting some more direction from the government in terms of the Year 6 SAT's. Current advice is that we continue to prepare our pupils in Year 6 as normal. As we hear more from the Department for Education, we will update you.

Staff Absence

It is possible that for a period of time, the school will be open but a higher than normal number of staff may be absent. If high staff absence does become the case, we will do everything we can to remain open, but we may have to prioritise some year groups. We also reserve the right to open partially. However, this would be a last resort.

Further advice for parents

This is a fast moving situation. Parents wishing to keep up to date with the latest situation, the following links may be helpful:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The Government Coronavirus Action Plan; a guide to what you can expect across the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

Coronavirus symptoms

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

- new continuous cough **and/or**
- high temperature

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection

Main messages

- if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, do not leave your home for 7 days from when your symptoms started.
- this action will help protect others in your community while you are infectious
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you get the things you need to stay at home
- stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home if possible
- sleep alone, if possible
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser

- stay away from vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, as much as possible
- you do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact NHS 111 online. If you have no internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

At the time of writing, the risk to young people who are not suffering underlying conditions is very low. There will be a small number of pupils, staff and your own family members with suppressed immune systems, so please do take advice from the government websites.

Finally, this is clearly a difficult and unprecedented situation for us all and we are doing our very best to react and pre-empt situations as they arise. We are therefore asking for your continued support as we take those decisions in order to protect the health and welfare of all our Purley Primary School family.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K A Fakes'.

Mrs K Fakes
Headteacher