



**Goring Church of England
(Aided) Primary School**
Faith, Love and Learning

11 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As the half term holiday approaches I wanted to celebrate the ongoing success of the children. Their enthusiasm to give of their best and take on new challenges, while taking action to address local and international needs has been amazing.

Health and safety

With the current international concerns regarding the coronavirus I have again reminded the children and staff about the importance of germ control by washing hands and using tissues if they have a cough/cold. Every classroom has access to antibacterial gel and children are encouraged to use this regularly throughout the day. Public Health England have provided the following advice:

What is the coronavirus?

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus has been spreading since it was first reported in December 2019.

Symptoms include fever and respiratory symptoms including coughing and shortness of breath. Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

If you develop these symptoms and have recently travelled to an area where the coronavirus is being widely reported or believe you may have come in contact with the virus then you should stay indoors and call NHS 111 informing them of the details linking you to the virus.

A case of coronavirus has been confirmed in Brighton & Hove?

One individual from Brighton & Hove tested positive on Thursday 6 February and is in a London hospital where they are being well cared for.

The new case is a known contact of a previously confirmed UK case, and the virus was passed on in France. Where this person lives has not been confirmed by the Chief Medical Officer.

Public Health England is the lead organisation responding to the situation. Public Health England is working with partner organisations to take measures to prevent any possible further spread of the virus.

Anyone who may have been in contact with the virus is currently being identified and will be contacted directly by Public Health England.

What should I do?

If you do feel unwell having travelled to the UK from mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau in the last 14 days, then you should stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if symptoms are mild. If you have travelled from Wuhan or Hubei province in the last 14 days then you should stay indoors and avoid contact with others as you would with flu, and call NHS 111 informing them of your symptoms and inform them of your recent travel to the city.

Everyone is being reminded to follow Public Health England advice to:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- You can find the latest information and advice from Public Health England at www.gov.uk/coronavirus

If you are feeling unwell and have not been contacted by Public Health England, then there is no need for concern.

You should continue to treat your symptoms as usual for seasonal flu or a common cold. If you feel unwell and do not know what you should do, then call NHS 111.

Where can I find more information?

- Information for the public: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

- Blog and frequently asked questions:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

- Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Mental Health and wellbeing

As part of our Mental Health and Wellbeing school improvement focus this year we have arranged for the children to participate in a mental health and wellbeing workshop today run by Fitter Future. They actively explored how keeping physically active and mindful benefits their mindset, learning ability and overall happiness. Do talk this through with your child tonight as there may be extended benefits for you as a family! Link to on line resources will be made available after half term.

Our newly branded school council, now named 'Raising Voices' has this term provided the children in each class with the opportunity to discuss the questions '*What do we do to promote physical wellbeing at Goring? What could we do better?*' Lots of ideas have been generated including the provision of more playground equipment, increasing forest school opportunities and circulating advice regarding healthy lunchboxes choices. As a school community we will be addressing these ideas in coming weeks.

Safer Internet – 'Together for a better internet'

Safer Internet Day (Tuesday 11 February) aims to create both a safer and a better internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. The campaign aims to reach out to children and young people, parents and carers, teachers, educators and social workers, as well as industry, decision makers and politicians, to encourage everyone to play their part in creating a better internet.

As a school we plan to spend some dedicated time after half term exploring with the children how we can work together to use the internet in a safe way. We will be providing you with some additional links and resources at this time to support you in your discussions at home. We would encourage you to take time with your child to focus on positive and safe use of the internet. The Safer Internet Day website <https://www.saferinternetday.org/> has lots of resources which may be useful.

RE/Art days

1 John 3 verse 1 - "See what great love Father God has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

On Thursday 13th and Friday 14th February the children will be involved in reflecting on our theme 'I am precious'. Teachers will use a variety of bible verses to help the children explore what this might mean and encourage them to express their own understanding of this concept from a spiritual perspective.

Payments for Trips

The school seeks to provide a rich variety of opportunities to enhance the children's learning throughout the year. I understand that this sometimes has a cost implication for parents which can, at times, pose a challenge due to personal circumstances. I am always happy to discuss any concerns regarding payment with parents and would encourage you to make contact via the school office. Our accounts indicate that there are a significant number of payments which are now overdue for trips that have already taken place. Unfortunately, it is not possible for the school budget to cover this outstanding balance and I would ask therefore that all unpaid contributions for trips are paid and future contributions are paid on time prior to the trip date. Although these contributions are voluntary, I do need to stress that it is probable that future visits may not take place unless all parents, who are able, are willing to contribute.

Adverse weather conditions

Should we experience adverse weather conditions over the coming weeks it is our aim to minimise any disruption to the children's education and support working parents for whom emergency closures are extremely difficult.

An assessment will be made each morning as to whether it is safe to open the school. In the event of heavy snow it is often the second day that proves treacherous as ice can develop overnight after a thaw. Parents can make a decision whether it is safe to bring their children to school, based on their individual circumstances.



I would advise that if there is snow and the school remains open you ensure your child wears appropriate footwear and outer clothing (and brings a bag with a change of clothes/socks & footwear) so that we can take full advantage of the weather during the day!

You can find out whether the school is open or should need to close early by regularly checking the school website and Facebook page or listening to Heart FM/ Splash FM radio stations. We will also send a parentcomms email message notifying you of any decision.

Please ensure that the school office has your current contact details so that we can keep you fully informed.

Safety at the start of the day

It is good to see a number of children growing in confidence and independently walking or cycling to school. For reasons of safety, I would ask that you remind your child that once they have arrived at school that they wait sensibly on the pavement outside the school gate. There have been a number of incidents involving children cycling unsafely along the pavements, through the garage area or directly outside school which is posing a risk to themselves as well as other children and their parent/carer as they approach school.

Yours sincerely

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