

Capel Primary School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at Capel we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and local authority.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions continue to run as normal including Breakfast Club and After-school club.
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally
- The planned Year 5 Assembly for Friday 20th March has been postponed.
- The Enrichment Day planned for 17th March is still currently going ahead.
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation including whether Parent Consultation will take place next week.

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- Our cleaning remains robust and has added twice daily considerations too.
- We are enforcing hand-washing and providing hand sanitisers.
- We have carried out lessons and assemblies for pupils about hygiene and how to deal with anxiety
- In terms of school dinners, the staff are working very hard to ensure enough supplies. As you will appreciate, this is a challenging task at the moment. We will let you know if there is a risk of us not being able to provide them.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**

“Learning today for tomorrow.”

- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- Check that your child has access to the school website from home, and let us know if there are any issues so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point. The class teachers will be providing work updates and links on the class pages to provide support.

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we'll:

- alert parents to closure, via our Jotter app and a post on our website, you will also find the information on Kent School Closures.
- Use the same systems to let you know when the school is open and to keep in touch with any developments during the closure.
- Children will be issued with a range of tasks from their class teachers, initially through a short document that they will bring home and then by updates and links on the class pages on our website. The initial document will also be posted onto class pages. You will be able to contact your class teacher either via email, Dojo or Tapestry in EYFS. The teachers will still be working during the term time, albeit remotely.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

If you have any questions or believe your child might be at higher risk

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any worries.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Suzanne Farr
Headteacher

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