



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will no doubt be aware, government advice regarding coronavirus changed again yesterday. I want to keep you up to date with this advice and also to inform you that all of my communications on this matter are checked by Public Health England (PHE) before they go out to parents.

For schools this new advice means that:

- **We clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using our standard cleaning products**
- **We supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues. We have introduced supervised whole class hand washing in line with this advice.**
- **We may have to start making changes to how we organise classes or even asking certain classes to remain at home if we have a staff shortage. We have to be able to operate safely.**
- **We may have to cancel school lunches if we do not have enough staff to run the school kitchen.**

We are continuing to monitor the position regarding coronavirus closely, and our intention is to follow the guidance from HM Government and PHE to the letter. School will remain open as normal until we are advised otherwise. We have had no positive cases of Covid-19 infection as yet.

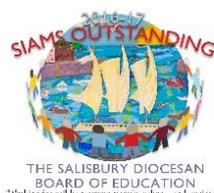
We will keep school life as normal as possible but take sensible precautions too.

It is understandable that some families may be particularly concerned about the health of either elderly or **vulnerable family members who live within the same family home as themselves**. Where this is the case, the final decision as to whether a child should attend school rests with parents but please understand that we will view such requests for absence sympathetically. In short, parents must do what they believe is right for themselves and their families now that the UK has moved from containment of the epidemic to the delay phase. I trust that this is of some reassurance.

If your family is self-isolating for the recommended 14 days or is advised to stay away from school due to immediate family members in the same home falling into the vulnerable groups in the link below, please confirm the reason on the first day of absence; there is no need to contact us every day thereafter, for reasons of practicality.

It will not be possible for teachers to provide work for children who are self-isolating on top of their normal workload. We cannot send reading books home or exchange books because of the risk of cross contamination or allow parents to collect work.

However, we do have work planned in the event of a whole school closure. But we are going to be reliant on parents to make sure that this happens and that there is a structure which includes learning time during the children's day. More advice will follow on this.



For now, this is what you need to do:

Please follow the normal procedures for reporting your child's absence. If the absence is due to a new continuous cough or a high temperature please check the government advice online.

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

The NHS guidance will direct you as to whether you need to self-isolate or not for 14 days. Please inform us that this is the case as we have been issued with new codes for our attendance registers.

If children become unwell at school with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home, along with siblings, and the whole family at home will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

You can view the guidance around stay at home guidance online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

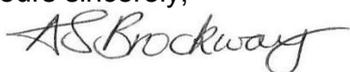
There is also new advice for the elderly and the vulnerable and some of the conditions listed will apply to school families and to staff.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Current advice remains in place: no education setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce would be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to education will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

