



Dalton St Mary's CE Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do keep saying that I am not one to panic or cause unnecessary worry however; I do think it is important for us to keep communicating with regard to development of the Corona Virus situation. As I have previously explained I receive daily updates with advice from the Government and I will always amend our practice here at school to comply with the advice in an attempt to keep everyone safe. Today, following the daily Government update to schools, I have updated our Pandemic Policy and as a result, I am sharing the following information with all parents. I have also included some changes to the school day and unfortunately, some information around events we have decided to postpone.

Advice for Symptoms

- Staff or children who live in the same household as someone with a **confirmed** case should self-isolate for 14 days
- Staff or children with **minor symptoms** (a new persistent cough or high temperature) should stay at home for a minimum of 7 days and contact NHS 111 via telephone or their online system only if symptoms worsen
- Staff or children **showing any signs** of infection **at school** should be isolated from other staff and pupils and sent home as soon as possible and the school will contact Public Health England by telephone. The individual should contact NHS 111 for further guidance

Routines in school

- Staff and pupil hand washing:
On arrival at school
After each toilet visit
After each break time
Before lunch
- From Monday 16th March 2020 we will not be holding whole school/key stage collective worship. A daily act of collective worship will be held in classes.
- From Monday 16th March 2020 children will be having their lunch in classrooms – this is to avoid the large group gathering in the hall. A midday supervisor will be assigned to each class and will sanitise tables and chairs before and after children have eaten.
- All children should bring their own water bottles to school as we are discouraging use of the water fountains
- To comply with our Pandemic Policy which states:
Consider restricting visitors to essential visits only
I have taken advice from Kym Allen and made the difficult decision to postpone or cancel:
Mother's Day Lunch (Postponed)
Parent Voice Bingo (Postponed)
Easter Service (Cancelled in Church)
South Cumbria Music Festival (Cancelled for our children)

This has not been an easy decision and I understand that parents will be disappointed however; policies are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

I will be reviewing the situation daily and will always keep you as parents up to date with any changes to school routines. If it were that school had to close, we would be using our online platform – Showbie to set work for all pupils. In the event of a closure I would be issuing clear guidance to staff and parents about the expectations of learning at home.

- For advice on school management issues contact the DfE Education Helpline, Tel: 0800 046 8687 or Email: DfE.coronavisurhelpline@education.gov.uk. This helpline is available to staff and parents to contact 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday.
- Another reliable sources of information: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Actions for Parents

- Ensure your child has their own water bottle in school with them
- Ensure you follow the 'symptom advice'
- Ensure **you are able to login** to your child's Showbie account (Nursery will have brought home this information today)

If you cannot login to your child's Showbie account Mrs Croskery will be available every morning between 9.00am and 9.30 am in the Rainbow room to support you with this. This room can be accessed through the junior door from the playground on the right hand side.

School may need to close at short notice and staff **will not** be available to support with Showbie logins at this stage.

I do realise that parents have paid school for Bingo tickets and Mother's Day lunch. We will be sending further information next week regarding refund of payments or whether parents are happy for school to retain payments until events can be rearranged.

I appreciate that it is disappointing for planned events to be cancelled and I would like to thank you in advance for your patience at this uncertain time.