



Dalton St Mary's CE Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from the letter sent home with your child on Friday I would just like to clarify a few points and make parents aware of further actions we are taking as a school to safeguard the community in the best way we can. I have repeated on this letter the advice section regarding isolation and the links to reliable sources of information. In school, I have put in additional cleaning hours to ensure all handles, rails and doorplates are thoroughly sanitised.

Parents Coming in to School

We ask that parents do not enter school through any of the children's entrances. If, as a parent, you do need to come in to school please come in through the front entrance where the office staff will be able to help. There is hand sanitiser available in the entrance and we ask that parents use this on arrival. Parents should not, at this time, be using the electronic signing in and out system our office staff will be happy to sign children in and out.

A great way to communicate with school at this time is through the Showbie platform. There is a class chat where you are able to contact your child's class teacher with any questions you may have.

After School Activities and After School Club (Mrs Millington)

After School Activities and After School Club will continue to take place. These groups of children are no larger than class sizes and the children are in the environment that they have been in all day so are not placed at any greater risk by attending these clubs.

Homework

Homework will not be sent home with your child from this week. We are aiming to reduce the number of items that go home and return to school as we are aware that the virus can last for a lengthy period of time on surfaces that are not treated.

Swimming

Following advice from Dalton Leisure Centre and Kym Allan (Health & Safety Consultant) swimming sessions for Y3, Y4 and Y5 will take place this week. All children will shower prior to entering the pool and following their swim. Handwashing routines will be followed when the children return to school. If this advice changes prior to Thursday, or in the future, parents will be informed by text message.

Mother's Day Lunch and Bingo

I understand it has been disappointing that some school events have been cancelled. As explained in the previous letter I am following the guidance in our school's Pandemic Policy and the advice of our Health and Safety Consultant. We are trying to avoid cross sections of the community gathering in close proximity to each other. There are also the practical implications of sanitising tables and chairs and allowing time for all adults and children to thoroughly handwash. With the Mother's Day Lunch the tables and chairs would have to have been re-sanitised in preparation for the second sitting and again all those attending would have to go through the handwashing procedure on arrival. We do have hand sanitiser in school, which would speed up the procedure however, we are trying to retain our stocks for staff and children.

Refunds: As you can imagine organising the correct change to refund parents for these events is going to take a little time. Please be patient with us whilst we organise this but be reassured that refunds will be made as soon as possible.

Residentials and Educational Visits

Some of our older children have been asking whether our residential trips and other educational visits are taking place. At this stage I am unable to answer this question as I do not know how events are going to unfold. What I can say is that we are in touch with Fussells (our tour operator for residentials) and our Educational Visit Insurers regarding the situation.

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
- 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 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.

This is a very uncertain time for us all and I ask that all parents continue to offer support to our school and staff. If there is anything that you would want to share you could, at this time, use the school office email address: office@dsmprimary.com

I am aware that many parents are members of class WhatsApp or Facebook groups and these are helpful for supporting each other. Where these groups are less helpful is when they are used to complain about school practice. If I am not aware of issues that parents are facing I am unable to find a solution. I am always happy to listen and discuss any issues and this will continue to be the case at this challenging time.

Yours Sincerely

L Woodburn