

St. Michael's CE Primary School



Coronavirus Up-date: 6pm Monday 16th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the advice from the government is still that schools do not close due to growing concerns about Covid 19. The situation seems to be changing hourly so it seems that a running up-date is appropriate. The situation as of 6pm on Monday, 16th March 2020

The school remains open until we have advice to the contrary or until staffing levels become unacceptable. Should school closure become necessary then:

- We will follow the communications protocols as published on the web-site (the same ones as for closure for severe weather)
 - Please do not phone the school office about closure without having first checked the web-site
- We will post work for children on the website in the children's area
- We ask parents or carers to ensure that children have a good go at whatever is set

We are limiting close-quarters contact between children by:

- Only holding Infant or Junior assemblies each day so that children can be more spread out in the hall. The alternative key stage will have their own assemblies in their own classrooms.
- During what would normally be carpet time in classrooms, children are staying at their desks so that they can be a little more spread out.

We are considering trips and events on a case-by-case basis. We have decided that, for the time being:

- Trips using public transport will not go ahead. If you are not sure, please check the web-site
- Other trips to various venues will still go ahead unless the venue itself cancels. If the venue itself cancels, there may be a chance of money being refunded. If we (as a school or as individual parents) pull out, refunds are unlikely. Please do not phone the school office to discuss refunds. We will send out information as soon as we have it
- Trips where children can walk and where activities take place in the fresh air will still go ahead unless we are advised otherwise
- Various events will be considered on a case by case basis
- Please do NOT phone the school office about trips or events without having first checked the web-site

We cannot give you medical advice as to how severe you or your child's symptoms may or may not be. We are not medical professionals. When considering whether or not to self-isolate, parents need to consider the advice of Public Health England, look sensibly at their own child/family's symptoms and consider the following:

- Any child that has had a recent fever of 37.8 or above should be isolated for at least 14 days regardless of whether or not they feel better sooner. We know that children seem to have minimal symptoms and are likely to be feeling fine quite soon. However, to protect others, they should remain at home.
- Any children with a persistent (fairly continuous) cough should be isolated for at least 14 days from the onset of symptoms.
- As per governmental advice today, should anybody in a household develop the above symptoms, the whole household needs to self-isolate for 14 days.

You can help us to keep everyone safe by:

- Ensuring the school has your up-to date contact details. You would be amazed at how many people change their phone numbers with up-dating the school.
- NOT visiting or phoning the school office unless it is absolutely necessary. As you can imagine, government advice is coming in thick and fast and office staff need time to process it.
- Ensure that your children wash their hands before coming to school and as soon as they get home. Keep teaching children about good hand hygiene.

We have noticed that many children are very worried about the whole situation. Although it is right that they are aware of what they need to do, some children are catastrophizing. In order to help their mental health and well-being, please be mindful of adult discussion where little ears can hear.

Thank you,

Senior Leadership Team

Today's up-dates

- Spring Concert (usually Summer Concert) is postponed until later on in the summer. Please read this week's newsletter for details about tickets etc.
- Reception's 'Cake and Cuddles' event is cancelled.
- The 'Resilience Workshop' has been postponed by the organiser.
- Dance Festival has been postponed by the organisers.
- All trips using public transport have/will be cancelled.