



Smithy Street Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

I thought it might be helpful if I clarified what actions the Head and Governors have agreed to take following the Prime Minister, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Officer's Press conference yesterday.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and staff, the following is now happening:

- We have increased cleaning of the school
- We expect all children to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds, several times a day
- We have cancelled all school trips, including the Year 5 trip to Gillwell Park and swimming lessons;
- We are no longer holding assemblies;
- Visitors to the school are discouraged;
- We are sending home children who display any form of cold, from runny noses, coughs and temperatures; and
- Members of staff who have been in contact with, are displaying symptoms of or live with people who have either the virus or cold symptoms are also self-isolating which means that they are not in school to teach.

You will have noticed that there are already fewer members of staff in school which means that we may have to combine classes rather than closing Smithy Street. However, the children will be receiving appropriate work for their age.

We know some of you have asked when children will be receiving work from the school when they are in isolation, this has been discussed and it has been agreed that the work will be released only if the school has to close, to ensure that there is a cohesive approach to their learning. In the meantime, please check to school website for some activities which can be done at home, there is more information on this at the end of this letter.

This is a very stressful time for everyone, so please remember that staff in school are doing their very best under extenuating circumstances and we want them to know that they can rely on our parents' support as we face this unprecedented situation.

We will try our best to communicate with you via Text (short messages) or Email (longer messages) regularly. However, as we are experiencing a large number of staff absences, please do check the school website for updates regularly. All letters we email to parents will be posted on our website as well.

This is likely going to be the last paper 'back-up copy' we are able to send to you, so please let us know if you have not received this letter by email.

Yours faithfully

Ros Coffey

Chair of Governors, Smithy Street Primary School

Edith Philipsen

Headteacher

Working at home:

To allow parents to access learning activities for pupils during any closure, we have devoted an area of our website to home learning. It can be accessed via a link on the front page of the site at www.smithystreet.org or via the 'Closure Info' tab. Here you find general details about the closure and latest guidance as well as a devoted page for each year group for home learning. Each page will contain a daily update from your child's class teacher guiding them to complete a couple of learning activities as well as a list of additional links to learning websites and activity sites that we recommend. The updates will be uploaded daily on weekdays during the original term times. There will not be updates during the planned Easter holidays.

In the event of a longer closure, parents may also be interested to look at the curriculum section of the website where the outline of learning for the rest of this term and an outline of the intended learning for the summer term will be displayed for each year group for any work they wish to complete with their children to supplement the activities the teachers will continue to set.