

Flookburgh C of E Primary School

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Together, we believe,
anything is possible

Monday 16th March, 2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding at this time; the information and guidance that comes into school changes almost daily and, as such, we have to respond accordingly. We are very mindful of the decisions that we make in response to government updates and consider the long-term impact on each and every one of us however, as I know you will agree, every decision that is taken is to safeguard our children, families, staff and the wider community.

Today, the decision has been taken to limit visitors who have been invited into school to deliver P.E. sessions or, to work in classes; school swimming sessions have also been postponed until further notice. Many of you will have been asked to drop your children at their classroom door or playground gate this morning and, I am very pleased and grateful to you all for your positive response to this action.

I understand that these are uncertain and unprecedented times however, we feel as a school that the precautions and measures we have put in place safeguard us all as much as is possible.

We too are very careful about the information that we share with our children and that the information that we do share is from a reliable source and follows strict guidelines. In this way, we can inform our children of the best ways to look after their health whilst reassuring them if they have any anxieties; I know that you will be doing the same at home.

A number of our parents have asked about the Karate grading for Years 3-6 today; we have spoken to the Karate instructor who has assured us that she will be using last week's pre-assessment outcomes to make the grading from.

We are hopeful that all of our curricular activities shall return to normal as soon as possible and I shall communicate this to you as soon as I am able.

All after-school clubs shall continue as normal as staff who run these are our own teachers and have regular contact with the children; there is no reason to stop sending your children to these clubs.

Further to this, any large events planned in school or outside of school, ie Friday Celebration Assemblies and our Easter Service on Thursday 26th March will not go ahead. We shall, of course, still celebrate our children's successes and achievements and send any photos directly to you using our school mailing system.

With regard to events and activities planned for after Easter, I shall inform you of the decisions in relation to these before we break for the holidays; I am hopeful by then that there shall be a clearer picture and sharper guidance and advice for schools to follow and implement.

Today, the Department for Education and Public Health England have issued updated guidance for education settings on COVID-19 which can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19#contents>

I also realise that there is some uncertainty surrounding school closures, particularly in the press, and I wanted to reassure you all that there are no plans to close our school – there are no reasons for us to be considering this nor to do so; the current DfE advice remains in place:

'No education or children's social care 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 or children's social care settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.'

In addition to the measures we have already put in place throughout school, we are increasing our sanitising routines throughout the school day to include regular sanitising of high traffic/use areas, such as, door handles, door push plates, computer keyboards, etc.

We are very hopeful that by working together and being consistent in our messages to our children and families that we can minimise the risk to all in our community and look after each other.

If there is anything that you would like to speak directly to me about please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

G Pett

Gill Pett
Headteacher