



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

"LEARNING TOGETHER – AIMING HIGH"

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Headteacher: Mrs Claire Marsland

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to the communication sent on Friday, the Senior Leadership Team has put in place some further measures. These are detailed below:

To reduce large numbers of children in extremely close proximity as much as possible:

- There will be no collective worship in the school hall
- The Year 3 play has been postponed until the summer term
- The Easter Service at the Church has been cancelled (Choir will perform The Three Trees to parents in the Summer Term)
- Children who bring a packed lunch will eat lunch in their classroom and hot dinners will eat lunch in three sittings in the hall. Classroom tables will be appropriately cleaned before and after lunch.

To minimise the risk of cross-contamination from other schools we have suspended the following activities:

- Reception swimming
- Non-urgent meetings with parents and outside agencies
- Individual / small group music lessons

At this moment in time, the Liddington residential trip is going ahead as planned on Wednesday!

It is important that we are prepared for the possible increase of staff and children absence and have measures in place to manage this.

Pupils unwell

Our current advice regarding pupils is as follows: if a student is unwell parents should follow the guidance issued by Public Health, which is available on their website. We will continue to send appropriate updates home. Please do inform us with as much detail as possible the reasons for absence.

Staff unwell

Following Public Health advice, any staff falling ill will be asked to contact the 111 advice help line. We will then follow the advice issued on a case-by-case basis, which may include self-isolation.

Partial Closure

The current advice remains that no school should issue a closure notice unless told to do so by Public Health England.

Should large numbers of staff be unable to attend the workplace for it to function safely, a discussion between myself and the Chair of Governors will take place to ascertain whether a partial closure may be necessary. It is important to remember that staff absence



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority.
We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.

will not necessarily be as a result of the Covid-19 virus but possibly because of the preventative measures to ensure illness does not spread and increase and therefore increase the risk of burdens to our health system in the current climate. Should a member of staff (or a pupil) be confirmed as having the Covid-19 virus we will follow Public Health advice which may supersede the intent laid out in this letter.

I will determine, in discussion with the Chair of Governors, how many classes are to remain open. It is possible that classes may be amalgamated if pupil numbers are low.

Under such circumstances and where a partial closure of a school is implemented, teaching staff will be expected to work flexibly. In the event of a partial school closure, the viability of a school opening fully the next day will be assessed and parents will be advised by 4pm of plans for the next day.

Full School Closure

A programme of full school closure may be a measure that the Government decides to implement to attempt to contain the spread of Covid-19. It may also be advice we are issued with should a case of the virus be confirmed within the school. Under such circumstances, teaching staff will be expected to set and publish work that students can complete at home. This will be done via the class pages on the school website.

We can reasonably expect that any full school closure will last for a minimum of two weeks, potentially longer, so teaching staff will be asked to provide learning online.

A full school closure will be shared in the usual way via Parentmail, County website and social media.

I am sure at this point it may seem that these steps are unnecessary but I am sure you will agree it is important that we are prepared for the suggested increase in illness and that we are in particular prepared to ensure the more vulnerable members of our community are not put at an unnecessary higher level of risk.

We will continue to update our families as and when the situation changes, and according to Government advice.

Thank you for your continued support in this rapidly changing situation.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Claire Marsland
Headteacher

