



The Laurels
PRIMARY SCHOOL

CB/mw

18 March 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus/Covid-19 Parent/Carer Update: 18.03.2020

We want to ensure all parents and carers are kept up to date in this ever-changing situation and share our plans with you as much as possible.

As you know this is a rapidly changing situation and our priority is always the wellbeing of the children. We ask that you adhere to the guidelines below:

Current NHS medical advice

All reports suggest that the coronavirus will be with us for several months. The Government's plan now is to delay the spread of the virus; thus reducing risk and overload to our National Health Service. To do this the current advice states:

- **if you live alone** and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started
- **if you live with others** and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- **for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms**, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

The symptoms are:

- **A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)**
- **A new, continuous cough**

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Sending home from school:

Any child who presents with either of these symptoms will be sent home from school (we will contact you by telephone so please ensure we have your most recent contact details).

You **do not** need to contact NHS111 in the first instance to confirm with them the need to self-isolate.

School attendance:

If a child is required to self-isolate (for whichever reason) in line with the advice given above, please inform the school office using one of the following methods:

- Studybugs app
- Email office@laurelsprimary.co.uk
- Contacting the school on **01903 830901**

We will then register absence covering the full 14 day isolation period. There will be no need for parents/carers to call in each day.

Staff are currently preparing materials/work for children who are self-isolating at the same time as day-to-day teaching so please be patient as content is being developed. This will be sent out shortly.

School Clubs

These are **cancelled** until further notice.

Contingency plans

Whilst the Government is encouraging homeworking, guidance remains that schools stay open. All schools are planning for a potentially sharp increase in staff absence as the Government guidelines are implemented. At present, we are open for all children but if we have insufficient staff in school we will have to consider full/partial closure.

As you know, we will do all that we can to remain open but it is important to advise you of the possible scenarios. These are the possible scenarios we are planning for but of course they may change:

1. School is open but high numbers of children and staff are absent due to self- isolation.
(We may combine groups; reallocate lessons. It would be a changed/reduced curriculum offer so children may complete activities other than the normal curriculum).
2. The school will partially close to identified classes.
3. The school will have to close due to not enough staff able to be in work due to self-isolation or illness.
4. Schools nationally/regionally are directed to close by the government.

Forthcoming Events

Here is the updated list of events/trips that are now **postponed**. New dates for these will be announced as and when we know:

- SEN parents' meetings
- Year 4 Vikings Day
- Year 2 SATs meeting for parents
- Year 1 phonics meeting for parents
- Reception trip to Paradise Park

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Any individual meetings with parents will now take place over the phone.

School trips

We are continuing to also monitor the suitability of the planned domestic trips/educational visits. Specifically this includes the Year 4 and 6 residentials, Time to Dance, Year 5 trip to London, Year 1 trip to Tuppenny Barn and Year 3 trip to Cuckmere Haven. Further information will be shared as soon as it is available.

SATs

We are aware there is some uncertainty around SATs in the summer. We continue to do all that we can to place our children in the best possible position.

Preparation for Distance Learning

During any time of closure, staff will be using Google Classroom. This will be our first time working in this way and utilising Google Classroom, if there are any hitches, please bear with us.

Username and logon details will be sent home shortly.

If you have IT issues/an access issue to Google Classroom please email:

itservices@dmateducation

Financial

There are two food banks in Worthing:

- Durrington Children & Family Centre, 81 Salvington Road, BN13 2JD (side of Library)
- Tel no: 01903 276888
- Trussell Trust Food Bank, 201 Crescent Road, BN11 1QR

Opening hours:

Mon	9-1pm
Tues	9-4pm
Weds	1-4pm
Thurs	9-4pm
Fri	9-1pm

The following will need to be provided:

- Proof of name (passport/drivers licence/bank statement)
- Proof of address (council tax bill/other utility bills)
- Proof of children living in household (Birth certificate/Child benefit letter)

Families in financial crisis will be provided with help to pay for gas/electric if copies of bank statements from the last three months are provided.

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Please be reminded of the following:

- Please can everyone wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; this is essential in helping reduce the spread of the disease.
- Please contact the helpline with routine enquiries about Coronavirus **0800 046 8697** to keep the office staff free for the day to day managing of the school.
- We anticipate that this update will answer as many of your questions as possible.

Thank you for your continued support, as ever it is greatly appreciated. We shall continue to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C Bull".

Miss C Bull
Headteacher