

Berry Hill Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs. Sally Hunt



16th March 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

Coronavirus and Covid-19 Update - protecting our children, staff and families:

You will all be aware of the concerns around this infectious disease, and the Government's Action Plan which is being implemented. There has been, and continues to be, much speculation around school closures, with any firm decision on the way forward to be agreed. As a school we continue to receive daily advice from the Department for Education (DFE) and Public Health England which we implement promptly and robustly. We will keep our community fully informed of any changes as they occur.

As a school, to ensure that we are providing the very best protection for our children, families and community, we are implementing the following measures to reduce opportunities for large groups of people, and cross-infection:

- All staff and visitors are requested to wash their hands on entry to school, and before leaving. Hand sanitiser is available for adults (but not children) to use.
- As well as the daily thorough clean of school, a mid-day disinfect of regularly touched areas (door handles / door touch-plates / handrails etc) will now take place.
- Children will continue to be reminded to wash hands thoroughly and regularly, and to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue (or on their sleeve if they don't have a tissue) and to wash hands.
- Staff and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal. (DFE guidance). If poorly, the required NHS guidance should be followed for the amount of time to stay at home.
- If staff or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they will be sent home (DFE guidance).

In addition to the above, full and careful consideration of activities and events to the end of this term has been considered, with the following decisions made to provide what we believe to be the best and most sensible protection for our children and families:

- From next week infants and juniors will be in separate assemblies, and the shared Wednesday playtime will revert to infant and juniors on separate playgrounds. Whilst aware that there are siblings in both ends of school, and that children mix freely in Buddies Club and outside of school, we believe that reducing time that children are together in large groups will limit opportunities for the spread of infection.
- The year 6 trip to Cadbury World due to take place at the end of March has been postponed until later in the term (dependent on the ongoing Coronavirus and Covid-19 situation).
- The year 1 Phonics Screening Information session planned for parents/carers has been cancelled, and this information will be emailed home to parents of these children.

- Parent/carer SATs information sessions that would have been held for year 2 and year 6 will not now take place in school, but information will be emailed home. *(Please note that should the current situation improve, question and answer sessions will be held after the Easter holidays).*
- The year 3/4 performance timetabled for Wednesday 1st April will be postponed until further notice. *(Please note that whilst every effort will be made to rearrange this, it will depend on the situation with Coronavirus and Covid-19 as the year progresses, as well as timetabling).*
- The end of term service timetabled for 1.45pm on the 3rd April will not now take place.
- We have already been informed of several cancelled events involving staff, and anticipate further cancellations involving children - such as sporting events. We are actively chasing organisers to ensure we know well in advance of any cancellations or changes and will quickly inform children and parents as soon as we know.

WORKPACKS have been recommended for when schools are required to shut for a period of time. Our school website has been set up with a tab 'Workpacks' and each class has a page where work will be posted later this week (this will be actioned by Teacher's during our Team Meeting after school on Wednesday). Please have a look at what is available for your child, and if you have any questions contact class teachers directly by email (during the hours 9am-5pm).

If you don't have access to a printer at home, and would like worksheets printed for you, again please contact the class teacher directly by email.

There is not a requirement to return completed work to school unless you would like specific feedback. Please also remember that children who are poorly are not expected to complete work at home, the **WORKPACKS** are in place for when school has to shut at the direction of the DFE.

Finally, the current Coronavirus and Covid-19 situation is an unprecedented situation for all of us. Parents, family and members of our community are understandably concerned about the risk of infection. We are working hard as a staff to ensure that all guidance and best-practice advice is fully implemented. Every decision made is with the intention of protecting our children, staff, families and community. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Sally Hunt
Headteacher