

**COALWAY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL**  
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16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) update 16<sup>th</sup> March**

The Prime Minister has this evening announced a series of new measures to deal with Covid-19 which we urge you to ensure you follow with immediate effect:

- Everyone should avoid non-essential social contact and non-essential travel.
- ‘Whole households’ should isolate for 14 days if anyone shows symptoms – this means that if one member of the family has a new cough or fever the whole family must self-isolate for 14 days. If you are self-isolating you should not go out, even for food or essentials.
- We are advised to avoid pubs, clubs, theatres and restaurants and other social venues.
- People should work from home wherever possible.
- From this weekend, those with the most serious health conditions should be shielded from social contact for 3 months (these people should receive advice about this by the weekend).
- As precautionary measures, the over 70s, those with other health conditions and pregnant women are advised to take particular care and special notice of social distancing measures.
- For now, schools will remain open.

In the light of these directives, the following cancellations will be necessary to limit social contact within our school community:

- Cancelling all Reception concerts (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>– 26<sup>th</sup> March)
- Cancelling the Spring disco (Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March)
- Cancelling the end of term Spring Service (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April)
- Cancelling all before and after school clubs (Wake & Shake and Year 2 Clubs)

To further support the Government’s advice to avoid social contact, we are also now asking that you:

- Avoid arriving on the school site too early to ensure that you limit contact with others, and also to keep a safe distance away from others
- Drop your children off at classroom doorways and avoid contact with class teachers or entering classrooms. Please telephone the school with messages for class teachers or write these down and give them to teachers at drop off times to keep lines of communication going – we are really conscious that unfortunately these necessary measures absolutely go against our usual open door policy but ask for your understanding and compliance in this unprecedented situation we find ourselves in.
- Consider alternatives to elderly people, vulnerable people and pregnant women collecting or dropping off children. If you have no other options, please let us know if we can help by enabling drop off from these people at later or staggered times.

From tomorrow, we will be limiting our own staff's social contact within the school building as well as the children's. Unfortunately, this will alter the daily routine that we have been striving to keep as normal as possible for the children.

- Whole school assemblies will no longer be able to take place
- Lunchtime arrangements will be altered to limit numbers of children mixing together, as will arrangements for playtimes.

As many more families and staff will be affected by the measures announced today, I shall be assessing the need to close classes due to shortage of staff on a day by day basis. Maintaining everyone's safety will remain my highest priority.

Tomorrow the staff and I will also seek to establish some home learning plans for those pupils who are affected by today's restrictions.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support in these challenging times. We understand that many of you may be anxious so please be assured that we are doing everything we can to minimise the effect on your children. Please do contact us should you need any additional advice, particularly if your individual circumstances are not covered by the information above.

Yours sincerely,

F. Hamilton

Headteacher