



16 March 2020



North Cotswold Headteachers

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the announcement by the government today, we would like to update you with the current precautions that primary schools in the North Cotswold Partnership are taking to reduce the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19).

At the time of writing, there has been no new guidance about the widespread closure of schools. Therefore we will be continuing to follow the existing advice:

- Schools have been advised to remind children to wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds and to try to avoid touching their faces.
- Schools have been advised that they are not to close, even in the event of a suspected (or confirmed) coronavirus case unless directed to do so by Public Health England (PHE).
- Cleaners who work in school buildings have been instructed to pay additional attention to 'touch zones'

However, the government have now advised all people to avoid social public spaces, avoid non-essential travel and to work from home where possible. It is recommended that vulnerable groups should take particular precautions to reduce their social contact. In light of this, the Headteachers in our cluster have made the decision to suspend any planned events involving non-essential contact. This means that classes will continue to operate as normal, but any trips, visitors, open events or public celebrations will not be going ahead.

For Andoversford, this means that we will rearrange swimming lessons for Beech Class and we will postpone the StaySafe anti-bullying workshop due to take place this week. We will also be unable to take part in the visits to SkillZone and to Pitville Park. Unfortunately, at this time, we will no longer be able to welcome parents, friends and family to join the Willow Class Showcase on the 30th March or our Easter celebrations on Friday 3rd April.

We kindly request that where possible you use electronic forms of communication, such as email to reduce the number of visitors into the school building.

Self-Isolation

This evening, it was announced that if any member of the household is displaying the following symptoms:

- A high temperature
- A continuous cough

then the whole household should stay at home for 14 days. Please note that the press announcement this evening stated an isolation period of 14 days, which is an increase to the previously reported 7 day period.





You can find further advice about the symptoms on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> If your child presents with either symptom at school, we will notify you as soon as possible so that you can follow the stay at home guidance. Your child/children will need to isolate for the full 14 days and will not be able to return to school until after the isolation period is completed.

Please notify the school if you are self-isolating with the date that the period started so that the school can keep attendance records up to date and your child's absence can be authorised.

It is not practical or manageable for teachers to provide at home learning packs for individual pupils alongside preparing classwork, therefore we encourage you to complete the following activities to support your child's learning:

- Listen to or read with your child daily and ask questions about the text
- Practise spelling patterns
- Practise number bonds, number facts and times tables
- Write stories or diary entries – or even write letters to others in isolation – many care homes have restricted visitors so residents would be very grateful to receive a letter!
- Use online educational games and resources
- Complete independent learning projects linked to the topic

If schools are advised to close for a prolonged period of time, teachers will assign work for all pupils to undertake at home. Please ensure that you are aware of any login details for school learning platforms and websites and check that the school has the correct email and telephone contact details.

Please remember that there may be members of our local community who may need support. If you are well, and in a position to help, there are many ways to reach out and lend a hand without putting yourself at risk.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support in this challenging time and we will continue to notify you of any changes as they arise.

Yours sincerely,

North Cotswold Headteachers

North Cotswold Primary Schools: Andoversford Primary School, Bledington Primary School, Blockley C of E Primary School, Bourton-on-the-Water Primary School, Cold Aston C of E Primary School, Longborough C of E Primary School, Mickleton Primary School, Northleach C of E Primary School, The Rissington School, Sherborne C of E Primary School, St. Andrew's C of E Primary School, St. Catharine's Catholic Primary School, St. David's C of E Primary School, St. James and Ebrington C of E Primary School, Stow-on-the-Wold Primary School, Swell C of E Primary School, Temple Guiting C of E Primary School, Willersey C of E Primary School, Withington C of E Primary School.

