



Peters Hill Primary School

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SD/JDW

18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you again to update you on our response to the spread of Coronavirus. Firstly, you will be aware that guidance on staying at home has changed and is as follows:

- Schools have not been directed to close at this point. The Government have said that this is under constant review.
- Anyone with a new continuous cough or high temperature should stay at home for 14 days, as should all members of the household.
- Everyone should minimise social mixing in the community (being in school is not defined under government guidance as social mixing).
- The government is expected by the end of the week to direct all 'at risk' people to stay home for a period of 12 weeks. At risk people include everyone over 70, pregnant women and anyone with a serious underlying health condition. Guidance is available on the government website regarding these conditions.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Please can you refer to this guidance in deciding whether your child should attend school. I recognise that these are difficult decisions and we support you in deciding what is best for your family.

There has been much discussion about the government's decision to keep schools open. I appreciate from talking to many of you that views regarding this are very different. For as long as we remain open, I am obliged to do all that I can to keep open each day. At the moment, we are taking daily decisions regarding whether the school has enough staff on site to keep the children safe. As more staff are required to stay at home either because they have symptoms, a family member has symptoms or because they are in a vulnerable category, we have fewer staff available. This number is increasing.

We will be open and honest with you about the way that we make decisions. If we reach the point where we do not have enough staff to keep the whole school open, we will decide to see how much of the school we can safely keep open. At this point we may decide that the school can be partially open, and this would then be confirmed with you all.

Since we have many children in isolation, we have taken the step of ensuring that work is available through our class blogs. Several parents have requested this, and we will be working to ensure that this is updated regularly. In the event of a closure these blogs will continue to be updated with work that children can access.

I appreciate that we have had to make changes to the way that school is running over the last few days. I am grateful for the support and patience that you have all given. I recognise what a difficult situation we are all in but please be assured that we are doing all we can to safeguard the children whilst in our care and will continue to do so in the coming weeks.

We wish you and your families the very best at this time.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Duncan
Headteacher

