

17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know things are changing at an extremely fast pace regarding Coronavirus and I will do my best to keep you updated. We had our own 'Cobra Meeting' last week to put contingency plans in place. As well as this, we are putting in place the following.

On advice from teacher unions, we have decided to minimise non-essential gatherings, so FOKSA have taken the decision to postpone the Mother's Day Lunch which was due to take place this week. Please keep hold of your tickets and we will be in touch as soon as we have a new date for you.

We will be continuing to talk to the children and remind them about washing their hands properly and regularly as well as sneezing/coughing into tissues.

As I'm sure you'll agree, we can't be too careful and I would ask you to keep your child at home if they appear unwell. I know that this is not usually our policy, but we have to be extra-vigilant at the moment. As you are no doubt aware, the symptoms of Coronavirus are a high temperature, a persistent dry cough, feeling short of breath and a headache. However, if you are worried about any symptoms your child might have, I will certainly not be urging you to bring your child to school in the way I have in the past. I need to leave that to your discretion as these are definitely unusual times!

Part of our planning work has included thinking about what we would do if staff are absent from school. Alongside this, we would need to prioritise supporting families who may work in 'front-line services', for instance nurses, carers, firefighters, supermarket staff etc. I would really appreciate it if you could let us know if you work in one of those professions or in any other essential service that I haven't included, just so that we are prepared.

We may also need to prioritise the attendance of Y2 and Y6 children until someone tells us otherwise. I do hope that the 'powers that be' think really seriously about whether SATs should go ahead. However, we are not yet at that point and we await daily updates. Obviously our plans may need to change, completely dependent on government decisions and advice, and we are trying to be as proactive as we can be until we know something more definitive.

I have heard from the Local Authority who tell us that the council is meeting regularly to work on the city's ongoing response to the situation. I await their advice and feedback from these multi-agency meetings.

Please be assured that I will make sure you know everything I know as soon as it arrives in school.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Kenny
Executive Principal



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