



Oakdene Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the government's guidance on the Coronavirus situation is changing daily and we are working relentlessly behind the scenes to respond accordingly. We follow daily advice from the Department for Education and Local Authority.

I wanted to write to you personally to share with you what we are currently doing as a school community to keep everyone as safe and well as possible.

What is the current situation?

- **The school remains open for the present** - this is the current official guidance we have been given.
- Pupils should attend school unless they feel unwell. If they or anyone in the household has any one of the following symptoms: a new, continuous cough and/or a temperature the government recommends that you should self-isolate and remain at home for 14 days as a precautionary measure.
- If your child is unwell, please report this by contacting the school by phone or use the email at the top of this letter before 9a.m.
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- We continue to reinforce a regime of strict and thorough handwashing.
- Additional cleaning of the school site is taking place.
- We are addressing all concerns relating to anxiety about the situation with the children through discussion and distraction (keeping children busy and in their normal routine).
- We are keeping visitors to the school site to a minimum and everyone is following our strict handwashing routine on entry to the school.
- We are risk assessing every activity, for example, Apollo's martial arts team produced a thorough risk assessment to explain what additional measures are in place. We have postponed the delivery of some regular activities for example, Yogabugs as the mats are disinfected but are used by children in other schools throughout the week.
- Risk assessments are in place for every part of the day. The listing is exhaustive but just two simple examples are: postponement of the tooth brushing scheme and postponement of the use of wristbands at lunchtimes.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible via phone or email.**

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- Please be responsible, **do not** send your children into school if anyone in your household is self-isolating. Be careful about what you post or read on social media, for example, photos of children wearing masks in a house. This can alarm other families and additional queries/ phone calls take staff away from essential work at this extra busy time.
- If we ask you to, please come and collect your child straight away, (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).
- **School events** – We are very sorry to postpone a number of events for parents and carers. In order to reduce the number of visitors to school we will not be hosting 'Stay and Play', Open Mornings or Parent Consultation Evenings until further notice.

What happens if the school has to close?

- We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we don't have adequate staffing ratios to run the school safely.

In either case, we will:

- Inform you by MarvellousMe of the need to close and post a message on our school website.
- When we know the school will be reopened we will inform you by MarvellousMe and post a message on our school website.
- On the school website, we have created a tab named 'Handy Home Resources' and there is a year group sub-tab inside this containing work for each relevant year group. You will find information about the online learning resources and login details for which you have access. In the case of the long term closure we will endeavour to update learning activities on our website and will alert you to these by MarvellousMe.
- We are busy preparing each child a pack of work to complete in the event of full school closure.
- We are trying to liaise with the Local Authority to ensure that no family will go hungry. The Council is aiming to create Hubs that will be set up to help families who are struggling financially.

Other advice is available on:

- NHS, if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you, your child/ren or anyone in your household may have the symptoms, use NHS 111 online if at all possible before calling 111.
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools.

Please find below some useful contact details for services in the local area

- Children's HUB 01642 130080 (Advice, Support and Guidance)
- Harbour Domestic Violence Helpline 03000 202525 (24 hours)
- Stockton Borough Council 01642 393939
- Police Non-Emergency 101
- Billingham Foodbank 07583 575522
- NHS Advice Line 111
- Citizens Advice Bureau 08438 166252

We recognise that this is a difficult time for everyone and we are doing our best to keep everyone safe.

With warmest regards

Mrs E Bramley
Executive Head Teacher

