



Bussage C. of E. (Aided) Primary School
The Ridgeway, Bussage, Stroud, Glos.
GL6 8FW
Head Teacher: Mr. Andrew Ferguson, B.A. (Hons)
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17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Coronavirus Update

Following on from the announcement yesterday from the government and the meeting of the governors last night, I wanted to communicate the situation as it stands at the moment and changes we are making to how we operate in what is a quickly changing situation.

At present the advice is that schools remain open. If you or any of your family develop either a high temperature or a persistent cough then you should all isolate for 14 days. I cannot stress how important it is that all members of our community heed this advice for the common good.

At the moment we continue to reinforce hygiene within school with hand sanitation and regular wiping of surfaces.

I think parents need to start planning for every eventuality as far as school is concerned. If the number of fit and able staff drops below an acceptable threshold then we may need to take the decision (with or without government advice) to close. We are assembling learning packs for children as we speak and tweaking our online facilities to keep learning going in such a situation.

We currently have a number of children who are self-isolating and we are beginning to be inundated with requests for work for these children. Could I ask parents who have just self-isolated their children to bear with us? We are currently putting together packs for the classes as a whole and I have prioritised this work at present together with the day to day functioning of a class. We cannot divert resources to putting together thirty two individual packs for thirty two children.

For those of you who have children who suffer from asthma, I am asking all parents to make sure that they administer the correct medication as per the prescription and that all inhalers in school are full and up to date.

From today we shall be ending all non-essential gatherings within the school. This means

- The KS2 play is postponed
- Parent Consultation Evenings scheduled for the end of the month are postponed
- Whole school assemblies will cease including Work of the Week and our Easter Service
- PTA Movie evening on this Friday is postponed
- All face to face governor meetings are suspended until further notice
- Clubs will be cancelled

P.T.O.



I must emphasise that at the moment the After School Club and Breakfast Club are deemed essential activities and will run as usual while the school remains open and while we have staff fit enough to run them.

I am not staggering drop off and pick up times at the moment but will keep this option under review. In the meantime, parents should not enter the school building except via the front door. If you are in the playground, picking up or dropping off, I would suggest that social distancing on at least 1.5m should be observed where ever possible.

The governors met last night to consider a planned response to this situation. Whilst a plan has been drawn up, things are evolving minute by minute and therefore the best course of action is to communicate to you the relevant parts of the plan as they come into force. This is why I am writing to you today.

I have spoken to Mrs Austin and it is vital that we have up to date, correct contact information for all parents together with an email address. This may prove to be vital in the coming days.

I know some of these measures will cause disappointment to children and parents within our community. I feel that they are important as we attempt to keep our children and ourselves as safe as possible during this time. As ever I am grateful for your patience and support.

I am sure we all have our own individual opinions on the current situation, you won't be surprised that I will continue to monitor and follow the advice from the Department for Education, the Local Authority and Public Health England.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Ferguson', written over a horizontal line.

Mr A Ferguson
Head Teacher