



# St Mary's Bluecoat C of E Primary School

Lodge Lane, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV15 5EQ

Tel: 01746 763455 Fax: 01746 767435

Email: [admin@stmarysbc.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysbc.co.uk)

Web site: [www.stmarysbc.co.uk](http://www.stmarysbc.co.uk)

Executive  
Headteacher:

Mrs C Gaskin

Federation  
Director of  
Teaching &  
Learning:

Mrs L Holt

Chair of  
Governors:

Mr C Steventon

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent,

No doubt you will have seen the PM's announcement yesterday that currently the government will not be closing schools across England and so, to this end, we continue to follow our dynamic risk assessment and work hard to ensure we prioritise the health and safety of our school pupils and staff at this difficult time.

#### **The latest advice to education establishments from government is as follows;**

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. **Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal**
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home
- clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products
- supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues
- unless schools have been directly advised to close by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team, we recommend all education settings remain open.

#### **Government Stay at Home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection is as follows;**

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started. (See also [ending isolation](#) section on .gov website)
- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of



Participating School 2015-16

what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period. (See [ending isolation](#) section below for more information)

- if you can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period
- if you cannot move vulnerable people out of your home, stay away from them as much as possible
- if you have coronavirus symptoms:
  - do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
  - you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home
  - testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home and consider what can be done for vulnerable people in the household
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
- if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

Across The Trinity Federation and at Morville School we are working hard to manage the situation as it develops and I thank you for your support and understanding at this very difficult and challenging time. As outlined in my letter to you yesterday, we have increased our daily cleaning regime in all of our schools so that key areas are disinfected during the day and we are sending home any pupil who displays any symptoms (persistent dry cough and or temperature) during the school day. We are limiting whole school contact by holding class based assemblies and we have cancelled all external visitors into school. The vast majority of school events and after school clubs have been cancelled where a higher risk was identified. Non urgent meetings have been cancelled. Children and staff are washing their hands frequently and all classrooms and offices have a supply of tissues.

Across our schools a number of children and families are now self-isolating as a precaution where a family member has any symptoms and we continue to monitor this closely. We are in the process of preparing home-learning guidance for all children who need to stay at home and this will be sent out through electronic means *only* to the parents of those children currently affected as soon as possible. As I am sure you can appreciate preparing this information takes time and staff are

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currently working incredibly hard both during school hours and outside their own working hours to prepare this information. In the event of a full school closure in the near future ALL parents will have home-learning guidance sent to them electronically and we will also publish information on our school websites.

We have today started to see a decline in our available staffing as they are also required to self-isolate if members of their household display symptoms. This does not indicate any confirmed cases but, like the rest of the country, my staff must also follow government guidance. As government advice changes it is likely that staff with underlying health conditions or those who are pregnant will also be asked to self-isolate. As staffing will inevitably be impacted upon then please understand that we may need to deploy our staff within our schools in different ways; meaning that your child could be taught by another member of the school's teaching staff team and we will not necessarily be able to communicate this to you in advance. We may also find that we have to close to certain year groups in specific schools should we not be able to cover classes in-house.

As you know, information from Public Health England and the government is frequently being updated and we can only continue to do our best with the information we have at any time. We continue to receive daily communication from the DFE and PHE. We can assure you that as always, the well-being of the children and our whole school community is of utmost importance to us.

As I said yesterday, we are in unprecedented times and our prayers continue to be for our school communities and those who have underlying health conditions or are concerned for elderly loved ones.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C. Gaskin

Executive Headteacher

The Trinity Federation and Morville School (Academy)

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