



Priory Junior School

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Dear Parents/carers,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and local authority.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given. If this should change, we will let you know.
- All school functions continue to run as normal – after-school clubs, The BASE, school lunches.
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally using Pupil Asset, or calling the School Office. It would help us to know if they are off because of the above symptoms too.
- We have been reviewing the trips and visitors to the school in the coming weeks and as such, the following decisions have been taken:
 - Year 4 Ely trip will be postponed until after the Easter holidays
 - Football tournament on 17th March will not go ahead.
 - Parents Do Day on 26th March will not go ahead.
 - Parents Coffee Morning 31st March will not go ahead.
 - FOPJS Chocolate Bingo will be postponed until after the Easter holidays.
 - Our Annual Cross-Country Championships has been cancelled.



- We are currently reviewing the Year 4 and Year 6 residential trips and will advise you about these as soon as possible.
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

If your child is having to self-isolate, we will also make a learning pack available on the school website for this purpose. This will be placed on the website tomorrow – please keep a look out for this.

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

As a school, we will be continuing to make sure that our children, staff and visitors are regularly washing their hands. All the taps have now been adjusted to remain on for longer to assist with this.

We appreciate that the increased hand-washing is causing hands to dry out, so we will be purchasing hand cream for all classrooms too. Should you, for any reason, not wish your child to make use of this – please let us know.

Increased cleaning of door handles and bannisters is taking place, along with increased checks of water temperatures.

Should your child feel unwell, with associated symptoms, we will call you immediately, and ask them to wait in a room away from others while we wait for you to collect.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via Pupil Asset or telephone.
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).
- Check that your child has access to Mathletics, Spellodrome and Times Tables RockStars from home, and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point).

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we'll:

- Send you a text to let you know, and display this information on our website
- We plan to place learning activities on our school website should we have to close. These will be placed on the Year Group pages and will be updated weekly. This will contain a mixture of online activities and other activities too.
- We will keep you informed each week when the learning activities arrive on the website via text, and will also use this method to keep you informed about when we would reopen, following any closure.
- If you needed to



contact the school for any reason during a closure, please do so by emailing. The office email will be checked daily, with messages forwarded to any members of staff necessary.

Please do not email members of staff directly, as we would not be able to guarantee that these would have been checked / seen.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child 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
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Keefe

