



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School



Carlisle Road, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 7LN · Tel: 01228 711544 · Headteacher: Mrs J Paisley
Our school values: *Respect · Kindness · Challenge · Forgiveness · Perseverance*

16 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

The UK government has now moved its Coronavirus action plan into the delay phase and cases of Coronavirus are predicted to continue to rise in the coming weeks. This of course means that the likelihood of somebody connected to St. Michael's testing positive of being in contact with a confirmed case and being advised to self-isolate is also increasing. Please can I reassure you that, at present, we have no confirmed or suspected cases at school that we are aware of.

The current situation is that if there is a confirmed case at school then Public Health England will advise on the appropriate and proportionate steps to take. Where a pupil and staff member is self-isolating due to contact with a confirmed case, the current national advice is that schools should remain open.

Pupils must not come into school if they have any of the following symptoms (even if mild):

- a) Fever
- b) New, dry cough
- c) Shortness of breath

If any of these symptoms are present or you are worried in any way that you or your child may have contracted Coronavirus you should follow current medical advice and self-isolate yourself and your immediate family. Please then notify the school about the action you have taken.

The health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff is our top priority. Having carefully considered the situation in Cumbria, we are taking the following actions with immediate effect:

1. Parents evenings, due to take place this week, have been postponed. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher about anything please contact the school office and we can arrange this.
2. School visits and sporting events have been cancelled until the end of term. We will review the situation after Easter. This includes CUFC football after school clubs and Year 2 swimming lessons for the rest of the term. We will contact you regarding refunds for missed sessions as soon as possible. Clubs led by school staff (Board Games, Netball, Dance, Spanish) will continue but Hockey will not.
3. Music lessons from visiting music teachers have been cancelled. Again, we will contact you about refunding missed lessons as soon as possible.
4. This month's "Books for Breakfast" is cancelled.
5. We will limit meetings in school and visits from outside agencies to essentials only.
6. All children should have a water bottle in school which must be taken home and washed every night.
7. Staff are currently preparing learning materials that can be used by pupils in the event of school closures. Our intention is to use the website and email to communicate these to pupils and parents. Please can I ask that you contact the school office as soon as possible if you do not have access to the Internet.

We will continue to monitor the Coronavirus situation closely and follow the advice from Public Health England and the Department of Education. The DfE's advice page for schools can be found using the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

There is also a DfE Coronavirus helpline for parents and staff to use for queries relating specifically to education and schools. Tel: 0800 046 8687

The most important advice is to limit the spread of the virus. Healthcare professionals stress the importance of hygiene and hand washing. They recommend:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Catch it, Bin it, Kill it: covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin
- People who feel unwell should stay at home

Students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:

- After using public transport
- Before leaving home and on arrival at school
- After using the toilet
- After breaks and sporting activities
- Before eating any food, including snacks

We will continue to highlight this important advice to students. We will contact you immediately with any new arrangements that may have to be put in place if circumstances do change in any way.

Please keep us informed if your child is off school either because of illness or in the case of self-isolation.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J Paisley".

Mrs J Paisley
Headteacher