



Garlinge Primary School and Nursery

18 March 2020

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure families that at the current time Garlinge Primary School and Nursery continues to remain open for both children and staff. Measures have been put in place to assist everyone with good hygiene throughout the school and we are following all guidance that is available from Kent County Council and Public Health England. I am sure that you will agree that in the present circumstances, ensuring as much normality as we can for our young people is the right thing to do.

However, undoubtedly, we will need to postpone certain events, due to the current restrictions, therefore the Parent/Teacher Consultations will now no longer take place on **Tuesday 31st March 2020**. We will rearrange this consultation as soon as we can in the Summer Term.

As this extraordinary situation continues to develop, I am writing to update you regarding the school's current position.

We have put together a list of frequently asked questions to help parents through the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19). If you still have further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@garlinge.kent.sch.uk and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Will schools close?

We intend to stay open unless we are required to close by the Government (this may be as a part of a measure to close all schools or advice from Public Health England which may only apply to some schools), or unless we are unable to stay open due to a shortage of staff (due to self-isolation).

How long will schools close for?

It is very hard to say. We will follow Government advice and close for as long as needed. We will keep parents informed via the school website.

My child only has a new cough and / or high temperature. Is it OK for them to come to school?

NO. It is important that everyone follows government advice and that your child stays at home. This is in the best interests of the child as well as the school community. *As of Monday 16th March 2020, if anyone in your household has a new continuous cough or a fever, the WHOLE HOUSEHOLD should self-isolate for a period of 14 days.*

I do not want to send my child to school. Is that OK?

Children should continue to attend school as normal unless they are self-isolating. The advice from government is that your child should attend school as normal and continue their learning.

Will school closure affect my child's attendance record?

No. If a pupil is following government advice and self-isolating, it will not impact their attendance. We will look at other reasons for absence on a case by case basis.

My child has underlying health conditions. Can I keep them at home?

There are children that the Coronavirus may have a greater impact on if they have underlying health conditions. The current advice from government is that everyone should continue to attend as normal but we ask you to contact the relevant medical professionals to discuss your child's personal circumstances.

My child is very worried about Coronavirus. Who can they speak to?

Many members of the school community are available for additional support. Children should speak to their teacher, teaching assistant, a member of the Pastoral Support Team, or any member of Senior Leadership Team.

What is the school doing to keep pupils safe?

We have increased the amount of cleaning that takes place during the school day, particularly in areas that have high contact for pupils. **The pupils have had lessons in effective hand washing and are being reminded to wash their hands regularly.** We have also cancelled our school assemblies.

Are school events still going on?

No. All school events have now been cancelled.

What can I do as a parent?

Please speak to your child about the Coronavirus and reiterate the key messages we have covered with your child about staying safe. They are:

- Additional hand washing, especially before eating and after using toilets
- Always coughing / sneezing into a tissue and disposing of it in a bin immediately
- Avoid touching their face, and especially their eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid contact with others by not shaking hands, hugging etc
- Don't share drinks, bottles, plates, cutlery etc

As I am sure you will agree, these are very unusual times, and it is only natural for us to feel uneasy. However, as Headteacher, my aim for all of us, is to remain healthy, whilst providing continued support and guidance for our families.

Thank you for your continued support at this time.

Yours faithfully



Mr James Williams
Headteacher