

William Shrewsbury Primary School

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Newsletter No 7 March 2020

Dear Parents,

Today I would like to just send a one item newsletter about coronavirus and save our photographs of Science Week and Aspirations Week, which will be next week, until the next newsletter at Easter.

You will have heard yesterday, that the Government does not intend to close down schools at this stage but that if any staff or children develop a cough or a fever/high temperature, they should self-isolate for seven days. This will have an impact for us in terms of attendance levels and potentially in terms of staffing levels as we will ask staff to stay at home if they display any of these symptoms, even if they do not feel unwell, as a precaution.

We will try our best to use supply teachers, including agency staff, to cover classes so that your child's education is not disrupted. Please bear in mind, however, that some of these will be teachers who are new to our school and may not know our usual processes. There may also be days when we have to put larger numbers of children in a class and amend the activities that we are doing.

Throughout, we will be using the Government website for advice and should attendance fall too low, I will take advice from Public Health England as to whether the school needs to close for a short time to carry out a deep clean. A useful link for you is <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

To try to keep virus free, we have taught the children how to wash their hands carefully but because we know that not all children do this, we are making sure that they all apply hand sanitiser when they come into breakfast club, when they go into class, before break/fruit time, before lunch and before they come home. Visitors coming into the school are also asked to use the hand sanitiser at the school office before they come in. Cleaning staff are using the appropriate products to clean hard surfaces such as tables and door handles as they always do. We are also using wipes to clean ipad and ipod screens regularly.

Should the Government decide to close schools down, we are currently looking into the possibility of providing work for children on software called Google classroom. We will tell you more about this if the situation arises. We are investigating ways of sharing work with families who do not have internet access.

If we do have to close down, we will sometimes need to communicate with parents via our texting service. Therefore we would be grateful if you let us know if your telephone contact details have changed very recently, preferably by emailing office2@williamshrewsbury.staffs.sch.uk so that we don't overburden the office staff with too many telephone calls at once.

While there is no need for alarm, we would like to contribute to keeping the number of cases down to assist with the national aim of helping the NHS to cope with this virus. I thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Elaine Curtis
Headteacher