

Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

As you are 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 are contacting you to let you know what we are 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 would like to reassure you that at Church Stretton School we are taking all of the necessary steps within our control to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government.

What is the current situation?

- › The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given. Schools have been instructed that they should remain open by the government. It will be for Public Health England to instruct otherwise.
- › All main school functions continue to run as normal
- › 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 by calling the School Reception. Please provide some details so that we have a complete picture as to issues in the community.
- › If you / your child / your family are advised by public health or a medical practitioner to self-isolate please do so. Please inform us of this position with the key dates.
- › We are aware that some pupils with underlying health conditions have had specific medical advice around school attendance at present. If your child is vulnerable due to underlying medical conditions we cannot at present advise you over this. Please ask a suitable medical practitioner.
- › We are risk assessing each up and coming trip and school event as they come up.
 - **At the present time we have taken the decision to cancel the Year 7 Humanities trip to Ludlow. A full reimbursement of any costs paid by parents/carers will of course be made.**
 - **With regret, but for safety precautions, we have also decided to postpone the school production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'. We understand that this is disappointing, especially for students who have been rehearsing so diligently, however we believe that it is the most appropriate thing to do at this time.**
- › We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation, which you will now is changing rapidly

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- › We have a careful process in place operating through School Reception to manage anyone who is feeling ill.
- › We have liaised with our cleaning company over the cleaning regime
- › Antibacterial wipes have been issued for staff to use in classrooms along with a box of tissues for each classroom

- › We have highlighted the importance to staff, pupils and visitors of hand washing. We have introduced regular checks on w/c's to ensure sufficient soap is present
- › We have educated pupils about hygiene and held staff meetings/briefings to ensure all adults in school also understand this situation.

What we need you to do

- › Continue to send your child to school with freshly cleaned hands and remind them of the importance of washing hands during the school day when they arrive at school, break, and lunch and at the end of the day.
- › If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**
- › 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 Go 4 Schools 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). We have recently completed a check on this area so feel we have a good coverage for you all. Please let us know if this is not the case.

What happens if the school has to close?

- › First - we would like to reassure you that we are ready with a careful home education system in the event of closure to ensure that as best we can, education continues.
- › This has been especially carefully planned for year 11 with GCSE Exams of course approaching
- › This will be based on Go 4 Schools where staff will provide instructions and links to resources for students to refer to. Additionally revision materials and links will be provided. We will use Go 4 Schools, school emails and our texting service for communication.

PLEASE NOTE: We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so OR IF we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will:

- › Alert parents to closure via our email / texting service.
- › We will post information on our website – please ensure you check this should we be instructed to close
- › We will notify Shropshire LA who will hold a list of Shropshire closures.
- › We will use the same methods to notify you about reopening.

Please keep in mind that we are 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 Reception, 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 is a tricky time and we know you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. It is important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

John Parr
Headteacher