



Five Ways Primary School

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Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Re: **COVID-19 (Coronavirus) update and school plan**

As you are undoubtedly aware, the government's guidance on the Coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. As I am sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. My first priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in our school. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about 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.

I want to reassure you that at Five Ways we are taking all the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government, NHS and our local authority, Staffordshire County Council. As you can appreciate, this is an entirely unprecedented situation. Official advice is being added to on a daily basis, and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published. This official advice will underpin all the actions we take. To date, we have not had any confirmed cases of COVID-19 although we have had some parents contact us to say that their child will be self-isolating in line with official guidance.

What is the current situation?

The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given.

Pupils should attend school unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms, they **must remain at home for 7 days**:

- flu-like symptoms and have
- a new, persistent cough and/or
- a temperature of 37.8C and above.

If your child is unwell, please report their absence in the usual way by phoning the school office on 01543 278071 or alternatively via email at: attendance@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk Any absence due to the symptoms above will be classed as an authorised absence.



Until confirmed otherwise by the government, all school trips within the UK will go ahead as planned. The Year 1 trip to Blists Hill arranged for this week on Thursday 19th March will go ahead. We have contacted Blists Hill who have assured us that the health and safety of any pupils visiting their venue is of the utmost importance and that they are following government / Public Health England guidelines. **All other school trips that are planned will go ahead as arranged until further notice.**

We will be taking the following measures with regards to upcoming school functions:

- The PTFA discos planned for KS1 and KS2 on Thursday 19th March, will be postponed until further notice
- The PTFA Easter Bingo planned for Friday 27th March, will be postponed until further notice
- Special Assemblies planned for the final week before Easter will be postponed until further notice
- In addition, Nursery to Year 5 Parent Consultation Meetings planned for week commencing 23rd March, and Parents' Evening planned for Thursday 26th March, will be postponed until further notice. Any parents who have an urgent question regarding their child, should contact their child's classteacher in the usual way through the school office.

All other school activities will go ahead as planned unless you are informed otherwise.

At present, all statutory assessments due to take place during the summer term will be taking place as planned. This includes:

- Reception Pupils – Throughout the month of June 2020
- Year 1 Phonics Screening check week - w/c Monday 8th June 2020
- Year 2 KS1 Test period during the month of May 2020
- Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check – w/c 8th June 2020 for a 3 week period
- Year 6 KS2 SATs week – w/c Monday 11th May 2020

I will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation when we have a further update.

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff?

- Cleaning processes are being carried out in accordance with guidance from Staffordshire County Council.
- Soap dispensers are being checked before, after and during the school day and replenished as required.
- Hand sanitiser is available in each classroom.
- Pupils have received guidance on appropriate handwashing.
- Should a pupil present with the symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, we will contact the parent/carer immediately and follow the latest guidance on the process to then follow.

What we need you to do?

Please consider if you have changed any of your contact details. If you have, then school needs to know as soon as possible. If you have, please telephone school to ensure your details are up to date.

We are currently preparing work packs for pupils to use at home should we need to close the school. In the meantime, please check that if your child is in KS1 or KS2, they have their login details for Bug Club, MyMaths and Times Tables Rock Stars so that these websites can be accessed at home. Please contact your child's classteacher via your child's Home-Link book if your child does not have their login details.



What happens if the school has to close?

The school will only close if we are either officially advised to do so, or we do not have enough staff to run the school. In either case, we will:

- inform parents via text message
- display this on our school website.

When school is due to re-open we will inform you via these same methods.

Again, to confirm **there are currently no plans to close school at this present time. If you have any questions:**

- please contact me via the school office
- please follow the link to the NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> 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: <https://111.nhs.uk/> if at all possible before calling 111
- please contact The Department for Education coronavirus helpline if you have any questions about COVID-19. Parents can contact this helpline on 0800 046 8687. Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday).
- Please see the most up to date guidance on COVID-19 at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>
- please consult the Government's travel advice on: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus> if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you are taking abroad should go ahead.

Thank you for your continued support during this time as we know this situation will have an impact on our school community. It is important for us to keep each other safe at a time of uncertainty.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Mander
Headteacher

