Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Governors

Following updated recent Government guidance, we are increasing the measures the school is taking to ensure all non-essential contact is adhered to. Schools are not yet being closed, therefore **we will remain open as usual,** albeit there may be some disruption to teaching as we arrange cover for missing colleagues.

**What you need to know:**

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| * staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
* if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home
* clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products
* supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues
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**The updated guidance can be found here:**

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

Current advice remains in place: no education or children’s social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children’s education and on the workforce would be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to education or children’s social care settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

**Handwashing advice**

The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

Watch this short NHS film for guidance:

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| <https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU> |

Where to find the latest information, updates on COVID-19:

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| <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> |

**Actions that Tutshill C of E School will take with immediate effect, 12.30pm Tuesday 17th March until Sunday 19th April 2020, to allow for Easter Holidays.**

* In order to minimise non-essential contact there will be a blanket ban on all parents/visitors entering the site.
* Parents will be asked to drop their children at the main gate if your child is in Year 1- 6.
* If your child is in Year Reception, they are to be dropped off at the wooden gate at the reception playground.
* If children are late, they are to enter through the office and the school staff will take your child round.
* At the end of the day, the only way we can ensure our usual safeguarding standards, is to dismiss children as normal. However, we ask that parents are mindful of social distancing, parents are not to come to the line - wait for the child/ren to come to you. Once you have collected your children, you are asked to leave the school site **immediately.**
* Play areas must **not be used**.
* NO adult will be allowed to enter school.
* Parent volunteers are not required to offer their attendance at school during this period.
* Should children leave belongings in school at the end of the day, parents will **not** be able to come on site to look for items
* Parents will not have access to lost property. We will ensure children look here if needed.

With these measures in place we aim to minimise the number of people on the school site therefore hoping to maintain hygiene standards.

**Assemblies and church**

We are reducing contact at school and therefore, assemblies and church services are cancelled and carpet work/circle time is being avoided.

**Caterlink**

Due to staff disruption, kitchen staff will be offering as close as possible the menu selections your child has made. Please be assured your child will receive a meal if purchased and that all allergies are strictly adhered to.

**The Cool Club**

* Parents are asked to ring the bell and children will be collected from the door; parents are not entering the site.
* At the end of the day, please call the bell and children will be brought to you with their belongings.

**Cancelled school events:**

* All meetings at school are to be cancelled until further notice.
* Parental Consultations will therefore be postponed until further notice. At present we are looking into alternative ways to host any planned meetings and we will be in contact in due course.
* All school clubs: cookery, hockey, rugby, football, running clubs are cancelled
* These include clubs run by outside providers as we cannot ensure hygiene. These providers have been notified separately.
* Heights and weights for Reception and Year 6
* Colourbox photographs - whole school.
* The Book Fair
* Any meetings with external contractors

**Holiday club: CANCELLED**

Given the uncertainly of the weeks ahead, we have also made the decision to cancel the Easter Holiday Club. Mrs Cross will be able to refund your payment by the end of this week. Please wait until next week before calling with any queries.

**PTA**

The PTA bingo event is cancelled.

The Easter Egg Hunt is cancelled

We are grateful for all the ongoing fundraising support the PTA offer us and we are sorry that we are not able to offer these events.

**Communication**

We ask that parents only make contact with the school when absolutely necessary. We are currently receiving a high number of calls that we are unable to answer. Please use the link in this letter and on our school website to obtain further information. Please be aware that when currently contacting the school, you will have a response within 3 working days as we are prioritising communication. Please do not contact school asking for school work to be sent home.

Parents are asked to look at the school website as this will show all events cancelled. Any questions, please look here first.

**Self-isolation**

Should you be unable to attend school following the government advice, we are adding a list of educational websites you can access during this period. This will be on the school website by Wednesday 18th March 2020.

The school is in the process of developing work packs and tasks for children should we get to the point that we are instructed by Public Health to close. Until this instruction is given, we will only be directing to educational websites. Teaching staff are still planning, preparing and delivering lessons in school.

I shall update all stakeholders with updates when necessary. I would like to thank you for your continued understanding and adherence of these measures at a time that offers uncertainly for us all.

Kind Regards,

Miss Lane