

Little Heaton CE Primary School

Boardman Lane, Rhodes, Middleton, Rochdale, M24 4PU

Telephone No: 0161 672 0555

Email: office@littleheatonce.rochdale.sch.uk Twitter: @littleheatonce



Head Teacher: Miss J L Hulme
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs C Crawford



Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

The safety, health and well-being of our pupils and staff is our top priority and as I am sure you can understand, over the last few days we have had an increase in the number of people asking many questions regarding the Corona virus and how this is being dealt with in school.

We are following all advice from Public Health England, which is provided to schools in daily (sometimes hourly) updates via the DFE and local authority, as you will be aware this advice is sometimes changing on a regular basis. You will be aware that schools have been told to stay open unless directed otherwise.

On behalf of myself and the Governors, I wish to thank staff publicly for their resilience and ability to ensure all our children are safe, happy and learning at this time of concern for the locality and nation and are a source of support to each other. I understand that the actions of some people over the weekend which children may have witnessed via the media may have caused an increase in feelings of concern. Please be reassured we are following the advice we are provided with by the Government and Public Health England at all times and all children today have remained in school, happy, safe, learning and reassured that the decision made for schools to remain open is appropriate at this time under current advice.

The advice school is following can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Self-Isolation:

The current Public Health England and Government guidance asks people to self-isolate for seven days if they have a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature of 37.8C or above. If your child has either of these symptoms we will expect them to be absent from school and in line with usual sickness and absence procedures you must contact school and let us know. If your child presents at school with these symptoms we will contact you and ask you to keep them off school for 7 days.

The same rules apply for staff at the school and we obviously wish to reduce the possibility of staff becoming ill as this could have a significant impact on the safe and effective running of the school.

Advice for those that self-isolate at home is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

From today, Monday March 16th 2020, to reduce the risk to any pupil or member of staff, at school level the following precautions are going to be applied and in many cases had already been in place since March 2nd 2020:

- Caretaking staff continuing to ensure the effective cleaning and sanitising of all areas in school (as usual)
- Regular hand-washing taking place across the school – Increase in the daily lessons on techniques from Public Health England regarding effective hand washing methods
- An increase in the amount of Tissues and hand sanitiser and antibacterial soap available (this was already in place) in all areas of school
- Cancelling whole school worship and assemblies - we will now have assemblies within our classes

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- Reducing the number of children in the hall for lunch periods and ensuring children only sit with their own class, hand sanitizer will be used before entering and leaving the hall as well as the supervision of hand washing before prayers and before entering the building if children are on break / lunch outside
- Packed lunch bags which are fabric, must be cleaned at home on a regular basis the children are taking the contents out and placing them on the table during lunch and bags are being placed beneath the children's tables.
- Cancelling/postponing school trips taking place up to the end of April
- Cancelling/postponing sports inter school fixtures with PiraMidd and Middleton sports partnerships
- At the moment we are only cancelling the choir enrichment club on Thursday evenings until the end of April, due to the large numbers of pupils involved with this club across key stages. Other enrichment and booster classes are going ahead at this stage
- Cancelling the Family Dino workshop for parents on Thursday afternoons
- Reducing the number of people entering school including volunteers and outside agencies
- Any visitors to school will be encouraged to state the reason for the visit before entering the premises and will be required to use hand sanitizer (located on the wall at the office window) before signing in on the Switch on device
- Reducing the external training our staff are involved in
- Reading books and book bags are no longer to be brought to and from school, please can we ask that no large back packs are brought into school. Reading records will remain at home as these contain your child's online learning log in's and passwords.
- Cancelling Easter workshops and visits off site for parents and children
- At this stage, we will not be having the Annual Easter bonnet and egg decorating activities (made at home) celebration in school – we will be engaging with Easter activities in school.

I understand that many of you will be disappointed with some of these measures. However, the decision has been taken at all times to reduce the possibility of pupils and staff becoming ill.

To support us we need your help with:

- Not entering the school site if you're poorly
- Coming into the school office area for essential visits only. Please phone school where possible.
- Age appropriate discussions at home to reassure all pupils who may be hearing or seeing news which may cause anxiety. We are continuing to use Picture news and Heart smart to reassure pupils and to support their well-being.
- Seek advice from public health England regarding any symptoms which would then lead to self-isolation

We will continue to review our approach to this issue in line with local authority and national guidance. We currently have no timeline of how long our additional measures are going to be in place but will keep you informed of any changes via school spider and the school website.

It is vital that ALL families have downloaded the school spider app and check this on a regular basis. If you have not, please phone the office for support with your personal log in.

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An additional questionnaire will be sent on Tuesday, regarding parental access to online learning platforms via separate devices, other than mobile phones, and internet access which is not linked to mobile data. This will be in addition to the e-safety questionnaire sent out from Mr O'Boyle at the start of term.

What will happen if school is told to close by Public Health England?

If this happens, we will follow all advice given to us. We will contact you via text message using the school spider app, email and place notices on the school website. We will have measures in place so that children will be able to access learning online.

If you have any further questions, please contact school via telephone or visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Kind regards,

Miss JL Hulme
Head Teacher