

Glebe Primary School Coronavirus Newsletter – Wednesday 18th March 2020

Government Advice:

At the time of writing this, there has been no significant shift in the Government's health guidance since Monday, therefore, I would like to re-emphasise the following guidance that was shared with you on Monday evening.

The current advice is as follows:

The Government now recommends that if any one person in a household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 calendar days.

I would urge you to keep updated with the Prime Minister's daily press conferences as, obviously, the advice and guidance that is given in these updates take a while to cascade to other Government and Health agencies.

Health Advice:

As a reminder, Covid-19 symptoms that should trigger self-isolation can be found via the [NHS website](#). I would continue to remind all parents all parents/carers of the importance of following the advice being given at a national level.

Absence/Attendance:

As a school, we are receiving a high volume of calls and emails from parents about school attendance. I am unable to offer advice to individual families about their particular circumstances. Many of you have informed us of family members who are part of vulnerable groups, please refer to the DfE, PHE or NHS websites to enable you to make the decision for your own family and children regarding a possible need for self-isolation. Government advice related to self-isolation can be found [here](#).

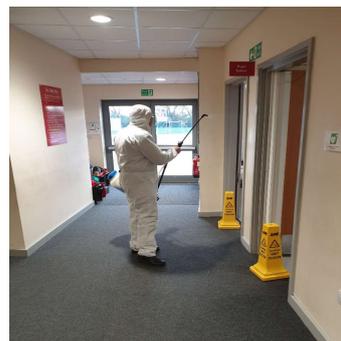
We respect the decisions individual families are making in line with the guidance and ask that you only contact us to let us know the reason for any pupil absence using the usual absence line. Please state clearly if your child is not attending school for reasons connected to coronavirus.

Deep Cleans:

We are undertaking deep cleans each morning before school and every evening after school as a result of the Covid-19 virus and will continue to do so until we are told to close.



The cleaning products we use



Possible School Closures:

As you may have heard, schools in Scotland and Wales will be closing from Friday. At the time of writing this, the Prime Minister had not yet confirmed whether he plans to close schools in England. He has commented that he is anxious about the impact of school closures on families who cannot work from home, something that I reported to you on Friday that I am concerned about. Hopefully he will update the nation soon and answer some of the questions we all have around this issue. Glebe will remain open until such time as we are told to close.

I know that some schools are closing due to staff shortages, this is something that we are managing at the moment and I cannot thank the Glebe staff enough for how brilliantly they have come together to support one another and cover classes. Please be assured that whilst the school remains open we will be doing everything we can to ensure the well-being of your children.

Learning Packs:

Teachers and senior leaders at Glebe have been working hard all week preparing home learning packs that will be sent to you electronically in the event of a school closure. I am keen to try to be paperless due to the risk of cross-contamination and sheer volume of paper we would have to print for all of our 644 pupils!

The packs will include a range of activities, from daily maths and English activities to projects and ideas for how to keep active. We will send out a new pack each week during the closure.

Pupils who are currently in self-isolation:

If your child is in self-isolation, you will receive a home learning pack today for them to work through. Please let us know if you have not received it.

Mental Health and Well-being Support for Children:

Resources to help you support your children:

We all realise how difficult it can be trying to talk to children and young people about global crises. As professionals, we are often asked about how much to tell children, how and when to talk to them, and how we can feel prepared for challenging conversations. I have received the following list of useful resources helpful websites for you to use over the coming weeks.

American Psychological Association: Information on Pandemics (a wide range of resources)

https://www.apa.org/practice/programs/dmhi/research-information/pandemics?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=apa-pandemics&utm_content=pandemics-resources

Anna Freud: Self-Care and Coping Strategies

<https://www.annafreud.org/selfcare/>

BBC: How to protect your mental health

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799>

CBBC: Video and Questions

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51861089>

ChildMind: Talking to Children

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

ELSA: Coronavirus Story for Children

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/coronavirus-story-for-children/>

National Association of School Psychologists: Parent Resources

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

Young Minds: Feeling Anxious about Coronavirus

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus>

Books

Something Bad Happened: A Kid's Guide to Coping with events in the News

Dawn Huebner. How to process different world events (ages 6-12).

Free School Meals:

We are looking into the possibility of working with a catering company to provide food parcels for our families who are entitled to free school meals in the event of a whole school closure. These would be delivered to a designated place for collection by the family. If your child is entitled to a free school meal due to your financial circumstances, please let the school know if you wish to be included in this scheme.

NB: This offer does not apply to the Universal Infant Free School Meals.

Thank You:

Thank you for your support, particularly those of you who have taken the time to ask me and the staff if we are ok and recognising the burden of the situation on us – your kindness is truly appreciated.

Further Updates:

I will update you again if there has been a significant change in the Government's guidance or if there are any significant developments at the school that are related to this situation, i.e. if we have to partially close due to staff shortages or if the school is told to close completely.

Take care, keep well, and if you are unwell, I hope you are feeling better very soon.

Mrs Penney