



17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing with an update regarding the Coronavirus situation and our current response and actions at Settle CE Primary and Kirkby-in-Malhamdale Primary Federation.

Very Important – help us to keep everyone protected

The first thing I would like to stress is the importance of keeping children at home if they develop symptoms of Coronavirus, which includes a new cough and/or they have a temperature.

Children must be kept off school and in isolation as per government guidance. If your child has symptoms however mild then they and all household members should stay at home for 14 days. The 14 day period starts from the day the first person in the house became ill.

These are the government guidelines and we need to stick with them to keep everyone safe.

The problem of course is that it is common at this time of year for children to have ailments such as the common cold. Perhaps your child has a common ailment and not the virus? During these unprecedented times it is difficult to tell without testing which ailment might be an indication of the virus. Therefore, the medical advice passed to our school is not to take any chances - if the child has a continuous cough and/or a fever/temperature then they should not be in school.

We apologise in advance for the inconvenience but this is the school rule and is non-negotiable.

Please do not drop your child off at school if they have a persistent cough or cold as they will not be allowed to come in.

Please be clear as to this rule and please do not take your frustrations out on staff who enforce it.

It is very important that you update the admin office if you have changed your email address or telephone number recently. Please also keep physical contact with the school to a minimum, phone calls and emails are better.

Changes to our provision

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday we have made what we believe are the following necessary adaptations to our provision:

- Mothers Day Lunch has been cancelled at both schools

- There will be no contact sports including rugby or judo for the foreseeable future, though non-contact sports/ non-contact PE sessions will continue subject to further guidance
- There will be no school kick boxing club at Settle but after school club will continue as normal for the foreseeable future.
- At Kirkby Mr Illingworth will continue to run an after-school club as without his support this provision would not otherwise be provided however he will change the dynamic and delivery of the sessions to focus more on growth mindset activities, tai chi and yoga.
- We ask Settle parents that at the start of the school day parents/ children from the Nursery Class upwards go directly to their respective classroom door rather than go through the junior and infant entrances so as to limit the numbers of adults in school. Kirkby Malham morning routines will be unchanged.
- PTA events arrangements have been reviewed and there will be no egg hunt or Easter Bingo.
- This year's Crucial Crew has been cancelled for all schools in the area
- The area debating event has been cancelled for all schools in the area
- Joint federation events will be cancelled until further notice.
- Easter Holiday club provision is still scheduled to run as normal at Settle Primary and Kirkby families are welcome to use this club, BUT be prepared just in case government guidance changes and affects our plans...
- We have made the difficult decision to cease with all volunteer help in school so that we can reduce the number of adults working in school and thus reduce the numbers of people who can bring infection into school or become infected. Class teachers will notify helpers and volunteer support will be phased out from this week onwards until further notice.
- Student helpers will continue to come in as long as they are showing symptoms as their placements are often essential to their course work and studies/final exam grade.
- Approved external providers such as music teachers and sports coaches will, at the time of writing, still be able to come into school to run classes as normal.
- No educational visits will be planned where children are put into contact with a large amount of children from other schools.
- EYFS and Key Stage One will continue to eat lunch separately to Key Stage Two.
- Collective Worship will now not take place as a whole school until at least Easter. Instead children will remain in classes for Collective Worship time.

· Any non-essential visitors into school will be cancelled or postponed until the summer term at least. This will be reviewed prior to the summer term.

How parents can help us?

Firstly, and I repeat, don't bring your child in if they have a persistent cough and or temperature or they will be sent home (see above)!!!

Please supervise children in washing their hands effectively before they arrive at school and when they get home from school. Please reinforce the importance of cleaning fronts and backs of hands, nails and wrists and washing for at least 20 seconds. The frequent washing

may result in tiny hands being sore so using a good moisturiser to complement your home routine is advisable.

Children will be required to wash their hands when coming into school and before going home. This is further to additional hand washing which will take place throughout the school day.

Any events which involve parents coming into school will be cancelled. This ruling will remain in place until at least Easter and will be reviewed for the summer term. This includes:

- o Parents' information evening

- o Collective Worship in church

Parents and Carers are asked to communicate with Class Teachers via email (to the school office) should they need to discuss something with them. This is to enable teachers to get children in and out of school as quickly as possible in a morning and at the end of the day.

Parents and Carers are asked to update the school office with any relevant health problems children may have which school maybe unaware of.

Parents and Carers are asked to ensure that all required medication is in school for children with health problems requiring treatment, particularly inhalers.

Parents and carers are asked to spend as little time as possible on the playground at pick up and drop off times. We will endeavour to ensure that the children are returned promptly to you at the end of the school day.

Parents Evening will now be replaced with an email communication with teachers providing a brief summary of your child's progress in key subjects via a school template. A full report will be given at the end of the year as normal

Need Extra help?

We know that lots of families rely on Grandparents or elderly relatives to drop off and collect children. We will do everything we can to accommodate increased numbers during extended school club hours if required.

If there are financial implications with regards to the use of club please let us know via the office email address.

We also realise that a potential school closure could have financial implications for some families. Anyone who feels they may need support with meeting their children's basic needs in the event of a closure then please do let me know. As a school community we are here to support each other.

In the event of a school closure

We are currently working hard to ensure that we are prepared in the event of a school closure. Teachers are preparing resources and home learning methods to enable us to continue to provide some level of education if we are required to close. Please refer to our risk assessment, available on the website and sent out to parents directly via email if you need further information on this. If this happens we will send out a clear explanation about exactly what work can be done at home and how this can be set.

Support your school community

We are taking all the above measures in an attempt to do all we can to delay the spread of the virus and would ask for you to fully support us at this time. As a staff team we are also

doing all we can to stay well and healthy and keep school running as normally as possible for the sake of the children and our school community.

We are mindful that some of the changes being made in school may cause some children to be concerned or anxious. Teachers will be addressing this through PSHCE lessons. Please do email the office if you have any specific concerns.

Please look after yourselves and be sure to look out for elderly neighbours and those vulnerable members of our community who might be struggling at this time. We are in for a tough time in the weeks and months ahead and there will be a point when many of us will need a helping hand or some form of extra help to keep us going. So please look out for those who might be struggling and if the school can help in some way then we will.

I am confident that Settle CE Primary and Kirkby-in-Malhamdale School community will do everything possible to support and take care of each other during these unprecedented times.

Thank you for your patience and support at this difficult time.

With best wishes

R Wright

*Richard Wright*

Executive Headteacher



