



**Emersons Green Primary School**

**01454867474 / [admin@egps.org.uk](mailto:admin@egps.org.uk)**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We don't want to bombard you with letters but we do want to keep you regularly informed regarding the current situation.

**New Advice - Updated today:** You will have seen on the news that the Prime Minister has now changed the original advice about self-isolation.

**If you or anyone in your household has a high temperature or a new and continuous cough - even if mild**

- **Everyone in your household must stay home for 14 days and keep away from others.**
- **DO NOT go to the GP, pharmacy or hospital**
- **Go to [www.gov.uk/government/organisation/public-health-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisation/public-health-england) to check your symptoms and follow the specialist medical advice. Only call NHS 111 if your symptoms worsen.**
- **Protect older people and those with existing health conditions by avoiding contact.**

If you have informed us that your child is currently self-isolating, you only need to inform us on the first day of self-isolation. You do not need to inform us every day.

For new cases of sickness or self-isolation, please inform us in the usual way on the first day of absence.

**Children who have been sent home from school today:** Some children were sent home from school today if they appeared to have a new persistent cough and/or high temperature. I understand how difficult this is, particularly for parents/carers who have other commitments and have to find childcare. As you can appreciate, we are following the advice that we have been given as best as we can.

If your child was sent home today, please follow the guidance above in red.

We will continue to contact parents to collect their child if they are demonstrating any of the symptoms mentioned above. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

**Confirmed Cases:** In advice we were sent from the government last week, we were told that the school would be officially notified if any of our children had confirmed cases of COVID-19. We have received no such notification yet.

**Children returning from other countries:** As per our previous letter, if your child is returning from overseas, please contact us via telephone or email prior to bringing overseas, please also contact us for further advice.

**School Visits & Visitors:** Unfortunately, all upcoming school visits have now been postponed. This is for a number of reasons including:

- the visit provider or transport provider being unable to go ahead with the booking
- reduced staffing and the need to ensure we have appropriate staffing ratios for the visits and in the school building

- the potential for children to be in close proximity with many members of the general public

We plan to rearrange all of the visits where possible. Where visits are rearranged, we will need to contact parents again for updated consent.

**School Clubs:** We have taken the decision to cancel all after-school clubs until further notice. This includes football matches, netball, Chess and those run by Professional Sport and Fitness. This is due to following government guidelines to avoid non-essential contact and to allow staff to focus on essential school working. We apologise for any inconvenience.

**School Assemblies & Lunchtimes:** We have cancelled school assemblies for the time being. Although children are sitting in classes with each other throughout the day, they're often in closer proximity with each other when they're sitting in assembly and eating lunch, given the number of pupils in the school and the size of our hall. Instead, teachers will have a short assembly in their classes and children will eat their lunch in their classrooms.

**School Closure Plan:** As you will have seen in the news, there is no national directive to close schools at present. We aim to remain open to support the wider community and workforce of Bristol. However, this is obviously dependent on enough staff being well and symptom-free to run the school safely. Each morning, we need to consider the number of staff we have, the number of pupils in school, whether key staff such as the leadership team, the caretaker and kitchen staff are in, etc. Some staff need to take extra care as per the government's advice if they fall into certain categories.

We will do our utmost to remain open until directed otherwise but the need may arise for myself and the Chair of Governors to make the decision to close the school if the staffing levels are not sufficient, or key staff are unable to attend work. If this happens, we will give parents as much notice as possible but please understand that the decision would only have been made after much thought and consideration and would not have been taken lightly.

**Home Learning / Remote Learning:** Some parents have asked for school work for children whilst they're off. Staff are currently working on school packs relevant to each year group. We will send detailed instructions about accessing these materials as soon as we are able. In the event of a longer closure, we hope to provide weekly activities for each year group. Information regarding this will be shared via email and our website.

We hope this letter goes some way to explaining the rationale for the decisions we have taken. Should you have any questions regarding anything mentioned, please don't hesitate to email the school at [admin@egps.org.uk](mailto:admin@egps.org.uk)

Whilst we need to consider all the advice and take it seriously, please continue to be sensitive if discussing the situation with younger children - we don't want to scare them. It's important that we remain calm.

Please continue to encourage good hygiene at home, as we are doing in school.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Karl Hemmings & Soraya Young