

Harleston C.E. Primary Academy

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Interim Headteacher: Mrs M Foreman

Friday 13th March 2020

Dear Parents,

My thanks to all of you for being so patient while we have been waiting for advice from the government about whether schools should be staying open during this time of having coronavirus central to all our thoughts.

This week I took the decision to stop holding whole school and Key Stage assemblies/worship together so we can make sure that children and adults are not tightly squeezed into halls - which, of course, is where the virus could spread easily. We are continuing to hold a daily worship in our classrooms.

At all other times, there is a reasonable distance between children whether they are sitting eating their dinner or sitting at desks in the classrooms. We have increased our emphasis on regular handwashing and are encouraging all children to take great care when they cough and sneeze. With better weather this week, we have been able to have the children spread out on the school field, running around and enjoying the fresh air.

If adults in school are concerned that a child is showing signs of a high temperature or has a new continuous cough and showing signs of a respiratory infection, we will contact you and your child will be sent home. We will expect the child to be kept at home for 7 days - just as Public Health England recommends. Please follow the advice given on the Public Health England website which includes not ringing 111 unless your child's symptoms become worse. We have been told by the experts that children are likely to be far less seriously affected than adults - but please remember that you could also have the virus passed on within your family by them. Very sensible precautions to manage illness at home are given on the Public Health England Website.

While we are following the advice given, it is unlikely for the school to have to be closed if we have confirmed cases of coronavirus. Should the guidance about schools staying open change, then you will be fully informed of the arrangements in place for your children to carry on with their learning at home. Our systems for this are nearly ready and Key Stage 2 children will be taught how to do this in computing lessons next week. We will make different arrangements for children in Key Stage 1 and Early Years.

At present, we are continuing with our plans to hold our Mother's Day and Easter services, our year 4 residential trip and our reading mornings with parents in classes. It is very difficult to predict how the advice to us may change, so please do not be disappointed should any of these arrangements have to change.

With my thanks to all of you for the support you have shown the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. C. Foreman".

Mary Foreman
Interim Headteacher