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| C:\Users\jhamilton\Downloads\cromfor_Rev2.jpg | Cromford C of E Primary SchoolNorth StreetCromfordDerbyshire. DE4 3RGTelephone: 01629 822248 Fax: 01629 823737 E mail: info@cromford.derbyshire.sch.ukWebsite: [www.cromfordcofeschool.com](http://www.cromfordcofeschool.com)Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Foster, BA (Hons) QTS, NPQH |

17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the rapidly changing advice regarding Coronavirus, I thought it was worth writing to prepare you for any changes the school may have to consider in the coming days and weeks. Please ensure that you read to the end of this lengthy communication.

The Government advice yesterday was largely expected and included a greater emphasis on self-isolation. Essentially, we have been directed to send home any child or adult with a fever or persistent new cough. Currently, we have a small number of the school community who are self-isolating. The advice is that self-isolation should be for a period of 14 days and should also include all other members of the household. This will obviously affect children, parents and staff and therefore could impact on the day-to-day running of the school. If or when we find ourselves in this situation, the following actions may be taken:

* Putting classes together with shared staff
* Dividing classes between teachers
* Possible closure if staffing levels are too low to open

**Other measures we will be putting in to place as from today include asking all adults to stay out of the school building as much as possible. After drop off, please avoid entering classrooms and leave the school site promptly. We are seeking to avoid the school community coming together in larger numbers and at peak times.**

Please use the school office email or phone number to communicate with us, rather than coming into school unless you absolutely need to. Should you not get a quick response, please understand that it will be because we are busy supporting children and/or staff.  I know this all sounds very anti-social but these are hopefully short-term measures that will enable us all to stay fit for work and school, for as long as possible.

For the moment, we are allowing music teachers and sports coaches to continue to come into school having received a clear understanding of the action they are taking but we will continue to review the situation daily and as we know more.

**Swimming** - we have taken the decision to cancel school swimming lessons for all children until the Easter break.

**PTA Chocolate Bingo** – following the government advice yesterday about limiting social contact, we have postponed the bingo night.

**Parents Evening** – We will also be postponing our parents evening.

**Water bottles** – to help us keep germs to a minimum, could we please ask you to provide a **named** water bottle for your child which they can then bring home at the end of each day to be washed.

**Attendance** - In terms of attendance, we will follow government guidance on staying open, when the situation and advice changes, we will respond accordingly. That said, if you are uncomfortable with your child attending school at the moment, then we will respect your decisions in this regard. If you are isolating your child or family due to medical symptoms or recent government advice, then please inform us ASAP and we will use a specific code for this absence. We appreciate that, as parents and carers, you will be mindful of protecting yourselves, your children, and your extended family. Please take any precautions you feel necessary and keep us informed.

At this point I think it is important to add context and reality. Despite the Education Minister’s announcement that schools will remain open for the time being, we are doing what we must, including preparing for a national closure.

**Home learning** - We are currently compiling work that will be shared with all children via our school website. This will be a mix of website links and online learning, spellings, phonics games and some suggested non-screen project activities that the children can try. At the time of any closure we will send the children home with any resources that may be relevant to their age or stage. We will do our very best to balance supporting our school community as well as our own families.

**Pupil wellbeing** - At the moment, one of the biggest impacts of the coronavirus outbreak on the children is the potential for them to be anxious about the responses they are seeing on the news and in local society. I have attached a guidance poster from the World Health Organisation that parents may find useful. Within school, we are talking to the children at an age-appropriate level to help dispel some of the myths they are picking up and to generally provide reassurance.

Finally, please can I ask you to speak to us directly if you are worried or concerned or have any further questions. Be assured that if there is something we all need to know - or if there is something that potentially increases the risk for you or your child - we will share that information ASAP and act upon it.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the staff team during this time, it is hugely appreciated. Whatever challenges we may face in the next week or so, I feel confident that we will meet these together.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Foster
Headteacher