

17.3.20

Dear Parents/Carers

**Please note this letter is being sent out as both a hard copy and on the app/website, however, from now on, future updates will NOT be sent as a hard copy. Please ensure you check the app or website for any further communication on this matter. The app is our primary communication tool and is very effective in reaching parents/carers quickly.**

**If you don’t have the app, search for ‘school jotter’ and then the school name on your smart phone. If this isn’t accessible to you, go to the website: (**[**www.driffieldjuniorschool.co.uk**](http://www.driffieldjuniorschool.co.uk)**) – thank you.**

**Coronavirus update**

Following last night’s announcement from the Prime Minister and associated guidance regarding social distancing, our senior leadership team has met this morning to put additional measures in place at this very challenging time.

Hygiene in school

Top of our priority list is to maintain good hygiene within school, which includes ensuring that children wash their hands frequently and that door handles and surfaces are cleaned on a regular basis throughout the day. Deeper cleaning at this stage is very important. Classroom doors are being propped open where possible to improve ventilation and, if the weather permits, windows will be opened periodically to ensure fresh air is circulated. Children will also have some additional time outdoors every day, in addition to their normal break times. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS HIS/HER PE KIT AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY. THANKS.

Child/family member illness

Firstly, if your child, or anyone in your household has a cough, temperature, tummy upset or is feeling generally unwell, they should not attend school until symptoms have gone. Please ring school on the first day of absence so we can keep accurate records for all children. You can seek further advice from [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) .

If your child is unwell during the day, we will ask you to come and collect him/her from school to reduce the risk of symptoms being passed on.

We understand that some family members have an underlying health condition that means you may not want your child to come to school; if you decide to self-isolate for this reason, then this is perfectly acceptable. Please inform the school if this is the case.

Parents visiting school

In an effort to reduce visitors to school, wherever possible we ask that parents contact school via telephone or email to avoid face to face contact at the main office. Thanks for your understanding.

Staffing reductions and impact

Due to a reduction in staff (which may reduce further over time), it may be necessary for us to place children with different teachers/TAs, and lessons may not be as ‘normal’ in the days to come. Decisions will be made each morning once we know which staff we have available, and how many children are at school. Apart from breakfast club and Kidszone after school club, which will remain open for those parents who urgently need childcare due to the nature of their jobs, all other before/after school activities will end, starting tomorrow. This includes those from external providers who we are asking not to visit the school site. If you do not need to use breakfast/Kidszone, please refrain from doing so.

School activities postponed or cancelled

* As mentioned above, clubs before and after school will not go ahead for the time being (apart from breakfast club/Kidszone).
* Booster groups for year 6 are cancelled.
* Meetings that parents are due to attend are all postponed and will be re-arranged at some point in the future.
* The Easter Bingo is cancelled.
* Governors’ meetings will not go ahead this term.

Our senior leadership team will be meeting each day before school to discuss the latest Government/Local Authority guidance or directives, and we will send updates to staff and parents as things change.

I would like to thank you for your understanding at what is the most difficult time I have ever known in my 33 years of being a teacher. Rest assured though, that the staff at DJS will do their very best for your children, as ever!

Take care.

L J Laird