

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to you to try to provide some clarity regarding school and your child's education following announcements from the Government yesterday evening.

We are all working extremely hard across Pathfinder Schools to maintain as much normality as possible. However, following the most recent guidance this is getting increasingly challenging.

These are uncertain times for us all this letter is based on what we know this morning and may well change later in the day.

Pathfinder Schools remain open

This is our intention until such a time that staff absence or confirmed cases of Covid-19 make it unsafe to remain open OR the government announce school closures. However, if the health and safety of your children are put at risk we may have to make alternative decisions – we will of course keep you updated at all times.

In light of staff absences many of our schools may well be exploring creative teaching arrangements in order to keep school open. This may include merging groups, using non-specialist teachers and using larger spaces for teaching. Please bear with us. As always it will be priority to ensure our students are safe and well. In addition, they will get a relevant learning experience – it just may differ from their usual timetable.

Self – isolation

If your child needs to self- isolate in line with government guidance please call school to report the absence in line with your schools normal practice. Should a member of your immediate family need to self-isolate, the current recommendations are that this should apply to all members of the family who live at home. Once we are notified of a 14-day self-isolation this absence will be authorized by school and classified as 'exceptional circumstances' this is in line with the guidance from the Department for Education. It will not be necessary to call each day.

In the case of all other absence, please call and report in the usual manner. We will continue to code absences as authorised or unauthorised depending on circumstances, again in line with guidance from the Department for Education. However, we do not want this to play a factor in your decision-making – attendance monitoring is not our main priority currently, our overriding concern is the safety and wellbeing our pupils, staff and families.

Work for students

At this time, we are making challenging decisions very quickly whilst putting in contingency plans for possible school closure, our priority is to keep the school working calmly. Should your child need to stay at home we will be sign posting you to the many online resources available for students to access that they use as part of their lessons. Each Pathfinder School will be doing this in line with their own current practice. Please rest assured that should schools be closed, specific guidance will be sent to you regarding school work and expectations.

School events

In the light of current guidance around social gatherings all additional school events are cancelled for the foreseeable future. This includes:

- All sporting tournaments and events;
- The school book fair;
- the planned visits to Slade Brook for our year 3 and 4 classes;
- our EYFS and KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade;
- the funky feet visitor to EYFS and KS1 classes;
- the Music for Youth event for our KS2 choir;
- Ukelele and Rocksteady concerts during the last weeks of term;
- Cherries and Apples cake sale
- School class photographs.

In addition to this we are making the following plans in school to limit social contact within school:

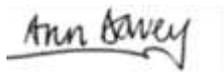
- All assemblies have been cancelled;
- Lunchtime arrangements have been changed to try to limit the number of children in one area at a time, with surface wiped down with antibacterial wipes between sittings;
- Staggered playtimes;
- Children in the smaller classrooms are extending their learning out into the hall;
- Use of outdoor school spaces for learning opportunities, as appropriate;
- Contacting parents in a timely manner if we are concerned about a child's health;
- Opening windows in classrooms to ensure a free flow of air.

We will of course keep you updated in light of any new guidance.

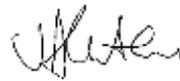
Throughout the coming weeks we want to continue to support you and your children. This is a time when our home-school partnerships will be needed the most and tested the most. We can assure you we will do our best to meet your child's needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Ann Davey
Chief Executive



Julie Clubley
Head Teacher