

# Benhurst Primary School

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Head teacher: Mr D. Denchfield BA (Hons) NPQH

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Coronavirus update

Following the Prime Minister's update yesterday evening, I am writing to advise of further actions the school is taking. It is our moral duty to do everything we can to ensure our school remains open for as long as possible whilst ensuring we are keeping everyone as safe as we can. With this in mind, we have introduced the following changes:

- Tonight's Parents Evening/TLC's has been cancelled. Teachers will send home the data/targets sheet. At this time, we cannot say if this will be rescheduled.
- Trips and residentials are cancelled until further notice. At this stage, we do not know if companies will offer refunds.
- School workshops run by external companies are cancelled until further notice.
- Sports events/matches are cancelled until further notice.
- Year 4 swimming is cancelled until further notice.
- Clubs (before and after school) to cease from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March until further notice. ABACUS will remain open at present.
- Assemblies will be limited to the Key Stage Celebration Assembly on Friday.
- Parent helpers/work experience to finish today.
- Only essential meetings will be offered. Telephone meetings will be offered as a suggested alternative where possible.
- Staff will not attend non-essential courses until further notice.
- Self isolation work packs and school closure packs will be scanned and added to the school website. This will make it easier for parents to remotely access, especially as many families will be self-isolating. Paper copies are also available; please contact the office should you require a pack.
- Year 6 boosters can continue as usual as it is our staff working with our children and there is no increased risk of exposure.
- School lettings will be cancelled from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

I must also inform you that following the new guidance, Mrs Garratty will not be working at Benhurst for the foreseeable future. For this who were not aware, Mrs Garratty is expecting her second child in July and we have had to ask her to self-isolate away from our school. Mrs Garratty is very upset that this is the case but agrees that it is the right decision. Mrs Hart will be writing to the parents of 1G later this week with details of how the class will be covered.

Our intention is to limit the opportunity for non-Benhurst staff to come to our school and for our children to remain on the school grounds during the school day. These decisions were made carefully and with an understanding of the wider implications and possible inconvenience and disappointment. However, during these challenging times, I believe the health of your children and our staff is paramount.



In the case of an enforced closure, or if staff shortages mean it is not safe to open the school, parents will be sent a text message at the earliest possible time; this would also be followed up with a letter.

In order to limit the spread of the Coronavirus, it is the responsibility of us all to follow the guidance. Children and staff should not to come into school if they, or anyone they live with, have any symptoms. This will be your decision as parents and must be taken seriously. If in doubt, please exercise caution and self-isolate. I cannot stress how important this is and the potentially devastating impact on our community if this is not followed. Whilst the government is leading on the countries response to the virus, it is the general public who will play the biggest role in determining how difficult the coming weeks and months are.



Below is a link to the government guidance which we follow.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>



I will be holding a KS1 and KS2 assembly this afternoon where I will be explaining some of the changes we are making and why we are doing this. My intention is to ensure our children have a greater understanding of the situation and how they can help by maintaining a high standard of personal hygiene.

This week, each class teacher will help their class to write a class letter that will be sent to the staff at Queens Hospital for the fantastic work they do, especially during these challenging times.



Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require any clarification on any of these matters and thank you all for your help and support during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Denchfield  
Head Teacher

