



COVID-19

Dear families,

Yesterday, a COBRA meeting took place in which the Government discussed the Public Health Emergency that is Coronavirus (COVID-19). In light of this, we wanted to take the opportunity to inform you of future actions that we may need to take and hopefully answer some of the many questions circulating right now.

All our efforts are intended to mitigate the spread of the virus in our school. We will continue to follow guidelines and protocols directly from the Government and DFE. All experts in the field of public health continue to emphasise the importance of basic prevention strategies in slowing down the spread of the virus.

POSTPONEMENT/CANCELLATION OF EVENTS

Effective immediately, all school events, and some non-essential "in school" events, will be postponed or cancelled this half term.

This includes:

- Parental Consultation Evenings
- Someone Special Lunch
- Class Collective Worships
- Celebration Worship for Parents
- Readers into school
- Church Services
- Shared reading in Reception Class
- Weekly swimming (Monday afternoon)

We are currently accounting for all such events in our school and adjusting or cancelling the events as appropriate. Decisions have been made by ourselves regarding the cancellations of our school events, however we also expect to receive, and have already started to, postponements or cancellations from other organisations hosting events we had planned to attend. For example we received a call this morning to advise that the Year 6 Safety Carousel workshops have been cancelled next week. We will keep you updated regularly via our Teachers2Parents text messaging service and letters via your child.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AND SATS BOOSTER SESSIONS

For now, After School Clubs and SATS Booster sessions will continue as normal.

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

For the moment, our residential trips booked to Beamish and Manor Adventure will not be cancelled. We will review this as the days/weeks go by and wait to hear from the venues.

PTO

Head Teacher: Mr John Appleby
✉ Hall Walk, Easington, County Durham, SR8 3BP

Chair of Governors Miss Claire Mitchell
📧 easingtonce@durhamlearning.net

🌐 <http://www.easington-pri.durham.sch.uk>

☎ 0191 5270259





BUILDING CLEANING/ HANDWASHING CAMPAIGN

Posters have been placed in our school reminding children to wash their hands thoroughly and regularly. Hand sanitiser dispensers have been installed in the school entrance and we have dispensers in each classroom. Mr Morrison and Mrs Robson have been instructed to clean and disinfect high touch traffic points such as handles, light switches, tables, and chair seats regularly. We also have a Coronavirus Risk Assessment in place.

SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO COVID-19

At this time, school closures in England have not been directed by the Government and therefore school will remain open. However, school closures could be a possibility in the coming weeks/months. As you will be aware, the guidance regarding this situation is very much on a day to day basis. We will inform parents as soon as possible if a full school closure is advised. For the moment, we will be examining potential learning options for our children in the event of a long-term closure with an effort to minimise disruption to the education of our children.

GENERAL WELLNESS ADVICE

As a reminder, everyone should continue to follow basic steps to keep themselves and others healthy:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based sanitiser.
- Avoid shaking hands as a greeting.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin.

New advice from the Government states that children who have a new continuous cough OR a high temperature (37.8 degrees or above) should stay home for 7 days. We appreciate your support following these instructions and keeping our children safe.

Please know that the decisions we are currently being forced to make are not made lightly. We realise these difficult decisions have an impact on children, staff, parents and community members in many ways. We will always choose to err on the side of caution to best protect the well-being of our children and staff.

We will endeavour to keep you informed regularly.

Kind regards,

Mr Appleby

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