



Coates Primary School



Coates Primary School
The Fold
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18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We are getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that at Coates Primary School we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and local authority.

What's the current situation?

The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given.

All school functions continue to run as normal, breakfast club will continue as normal and out of school club will continue but will close at 5pm.

Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 14 days alongside all people in the household**:

- a new, continuous cough and/or
- a temperature.

If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by contacting the school office.

If your child has a pre-existing medical condition which would place them in the vulnerable category please contact the school office/Mrs Boucher to discuss if it is advisable for them to attend school under the current medical guidelines.

We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

Any children who report feeling unwell will have their temperature checked.

Any child showing signs of a high temperature or continuous cough will be sent home.

The schools cleaning measures have been increased in line with government guidelines.

All children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly for at least 20 seconds and we are continuing to provide hand sanitisers.

Lessons and assemblies have and will continue to focus on aspects of hygiene and how to deal with anxiety.

What we need you to do

If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via admin@coates.cambs.sch.uk or 01733 840527.

Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It is a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. BBC Newsround has regular updates for younger children and Young Minds has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.

Please come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).

To enable the school to stay open when staff are unable to be in school due to self-isolation (there has been recent guidance of pre-existing medical conditions which now prevents staff from working in school) movement of staff and joining of classes may be necessary. I am sure you will understand that this is essential to ensure the school stays open and also meets the needs of the pupils.

What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will notify parents via Parentmail, Facebook and the school website.

We will notify parents of when the school will reopen via Parentmail, Facebook and the website.

For children who are currently not in school due to isolation the class teachers will be uploading tasks for them to complete each day onto the class pages on the school website. The first of these will be uploaded by Thursday morning and then by Monday morning each week.

Children are also expected to continue their usual homework.

If the school does have to close daily work will be organised for each class and sent home via Parentmail. Please contact the school office if you are unable to access Parentmail and arrangements to send alternative work will be made. Pupils will be provided with resources to enable them to complete the work set. These will be sent home this week as a precautionary measure to those children currently in school, for those children not in school these can be collected from the school office on Thursday 19th March from 9:00am. If you are unable to arrange for these to be collected please contact the school office and arrangements will be made.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare.

There are currently no plans to close.

If you have any questions

Please contact the School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue:-

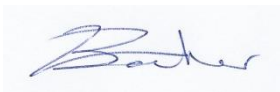
NHS, if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use NHS 111 online if at all possible before calling 111.

Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools.

Government's travel advice, if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you are taking abroad should go ahead.

It is a tricky time and we know you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. It is important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Boucher', is shown within a light blue rectangular box.

Lindsey Boucher
Headteacher