



BARWELL CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST MARY'S CHURCH BARWELL

HEADTEACHER: MISS V NEWMAN

BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED
LEARNING THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Love thy neighbour in a flourishing school community

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear families,

I know that this is a really concerning time for people and there are a lot of unknowns around at the minute but I will try and keep you as informed as possible and as quickly as possible if there is new advice. In school, we are working hard to reduce children's anxiety by using the message that this is something for adults to deal with, not a worry for children but that it is their responsibility to ensure good hygiene levels.

I also want to make sure that I do not add anything additional to your stress levels by assuring you that, although in normal circumstances we take attendance very seriously, under the present exceptional circumstances we are not operating our normal attendance procedures and will not take any action where children's attendance falls.

Hopefully, you will be aware of the new guidance that came out last night. Because of the guidance around social distancing, **we will be postponing Parents' Evening next week until later in the year.**

We have had to **cancel swimming this afternoon for our Y3 children** as we do not have sufficient staffing to ensure the right levels of support at swimming and at school.

Some parents have requested home learning packs. At present our advice is, if children are at home and are well they should read, read and do more reading! They can also access Times Tables Rock Stars. If it becomes necessary to close our school, either under the guidance from the government or because low staffing levels mean that we have to shut for safety reasons, we will follow advice on providing distance learning materials.

This is a difficult time for all and the advice is changing daily. I will always put the health, safety and welfare of our children and staff before anything else. At present, I am working hard to ensure that school can function as normally as possible but in the days and weeks to come, this may prove more difficult. I am however, extremely lucky to be a headteacher of a school with fabulous staff, children and families and we will support each other through this difficult time.

On the following page, I have set out the guidance for self-isolation that we will be following until new guidance is published.

Kind regards

Victoria Newman

Headteacher



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Because we are now in the suppression phase, the advice has changed and we will be following this advice which is detailed below:

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (CPVOD-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

For most people, coronavirus will be a mild infection.

The main messages are:

- if anyone in your household have experienced the symptoms above, then **all household members** must stay at home and **not leave the house for 14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.
- if you have coronavirus symptoms:
 - do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
 - you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home
 - testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home
 - wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
 - if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the NHS 111 online (<https://111.nhs.uk>) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999



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