



Bransty Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your support and understanding in light of recent events due to the ongoing uncertainty with the coronavirus. Please do not worry about the cancellation/alteration of events over the next two weeks. There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus within Whitehaven schools, we are simply taking precautions to minimise interactions and reduce the possibility of the virus spreading to actively protect the whole school community.

Cases of coronavirus are predicted to increase. This means the likelihood of a pupil or member of staff testing positive or being in contact with a confirmed case and being advised to self-isolate is increasing. The current situation is that **if** there is a confirmed case at school then Public Health England will advise on the appropriate and proportionate steps to take. Where a pupil or staff member is isolating due to contact with a confirmed case the current national advice is that schools should remain open.

I would like to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of students, staff and the community is our top priority. Having carefully considered the current situation in Cumbria, we are going to take the following measures with immediate effect:

1. There will be **no parent gatherings** in school for the rest of this term. This means that the following events are cancelled but will be rescheduled at a later date:
 - Year 3 Parent lunch
 - Easter Bingo
 - Parent visitors into school including volunteers and any planned meetings involving parents/family members.
 - Year 1 residential parent meeting. A decision regarding school residential visits will be made as we receive further guidance from the government over the next few weeks.
2. The last swimming for Year 1 and Year 4 will be cancelled this Friday and due to Whitehaven Campus limiting access to their grounds, the swimming sessions held at Mayfield School will also be cancelled until further notice.
3. We will look to minimise visitors in school. As a result:
 - All Breakfast Club pupils to be handed over at the Breakfast Club door and your child will be collected and signed in by a staff member.
 - Collection/drop off of all children will be from each classroom external door. Any other after school activity/Beehive session **MUST BE** from outside the buildings. Your child will be sent out to you.

- Nursery parents will need to hand over their children to staff at the door and NOT enter the building.
- School toilets will be no longer available to the public.
- Children will need to reclaim their own lost property if they realise an item has been forgotten at the end of the school day. As always, please make sure names are in clothes and shoes.
- It is ESSENTIAL that all children arrive at school on time so we can monitor the system when we have staff members present.

In addition to these actions, we have put in place a number of measures with the pupils. This includes briefing them in class, putting notices and signage up around the school to encourage good hygiene and regularly checking the soap dispensers to ensure that there is always an adequate supply.

Children who are classed as 'vulnerable' will have all absences authorised. If you have vulnerable members of your family and to protect them further it would mean a pupil needed to self-isolate, then again, that absence will be authorised.

As stated in the letter sent out last week, we will continue to monitor the coronavirus situation closely and follow advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education on a daily basis. The Department of Education's advice page for schools can be found using the link below:

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

A polite reminder: The most important advice is to limit the spread of the virus. Health-care professionals stress the importance of hygiene and hand washing. They recommend:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Catch it, Bin it, Kill it: Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue (then throwing the tissue in a bin) or your elbow if there is no tissue available
- People who feel unwell should stay at home

Pupils, staff and visitors should wash their hands:

- Whenever coming in from outside
- After using public transport
- Before leaving home and on arrival at school
- After using the toilet
- After breaks and sporting activities
- Before eating any food, including snacks

We will continue to highlight this important advice to pupils. If circumstances do change in anyway then we will contact you immediately with any arrangements that may have to be put in place. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us, where we will do our very best to guide and support you. Above all look after each other and be calm, being reassured by sound medical advice.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Fearon

Joanne Fearon
Head Teacher

