



St George's C of E School
(Part of SDBE Multi Academy Trust)

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Headteacher: Mrs G Constable

Assistant Headteachers: Miss K MacAlpine and Mrs L Franklin-Smith

Dear Parents/Carers,

IMPORANT UPDATE Coronavirus/COVID-19 – 17th March

Following on from the outcomes of yesterday's COBRA meeting and the new government guidelines that came out of this to deal with the escalating crisis, we are implementing a number of strategies to reduce the spread of the disease in school and minimise the risk to pupils and staff.

London are weeks ahead of other regions with transmissions happening more rapidly, Londoners are being told to pay special attention to the government advice and avoid non-essential contact.

The new guidance states that if any pupils or staff develop one or both of the following symptoms, they must stay at home, along with other household members, for 14 days:-

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

Please let the school know as soon as possible if your child is unwell or your family are self-isolating. If your child displays these symptoms in school you will be contacted and asked to collect them.

Please be assured that we do not have any confirmed COVID-19 cases at school.

As you will appreciate the number of families and staff self-isolating is increasing on a daily basis. Currently we have 25% of pupils off school and 20% of staff and is likely to increase within the next few days. Our priority has to be to limit the risk to the pupils, staff and the school community and as a result, we are reviewing our Risk Assessments and Business Continuity Plan on a daily basis and are implementing a number of strategies to ensure staff are deployed across the school to guarantee pupil safety and that non-essential contact is limited. These strategies include:-

- **With effect from Wednesday 18th March, the nursery will shut as we are unable to maintain adequate staffing ratio's. We appreciate that this decision will have an impact on many families, however we have to utilise our current staff to ensure that we fulfil our statutory educational duties and regrettably nurseries are not statutory**
- With immediate effect all after school clubs are cancelled
- The class Lenten Appeal events are postponed
- The school journey to Windmill Hill is deferred, further information to follow
- All class trips are cancelled
- Swimming lessons for pupils in year 4 are cancelled
- There will be no Friday tuck shop
- **With effect from Wednesday 18th March ONLY school employees will be allowed on site**
- **With effect from Wednesday 18th March, parents and visitors will not be allowed in the school building.** If you need to speak to the office staff please either email or telephone, or alternatively leave a message with staff on the school gates. If you are

dropping your child off for breakfast club they will be greeted by the entrance by a member of staff and escorted into school. If you are picking your child up early, they will be taken out to you.

- Parents will be allowed in the playground at the beginning and end of the school day but we ask that you follow the governments social distancing advice and keep 2 metres distance between you and another individual
- If you need to speak to your child's teacher you may do this in the playground at the end of the school day or leave a telephone message with the school office
- Only contractors carrying out essential work will be allowed on site

You may also be aware that the government have announced that by the weekend those in vulnerable groups - including pregnant women will be asked to avoid contact by isolating except in very specific circumstances. Guidance on social distancing can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

We are aware that a number of our children and families have underlying health conditions that fall within the vulnerable group category and we will write to these families directly with advice relating to self-isolation.

Over the next couple of days we will be updating the class pages at <http://www.stgeorges.lewisham.sch.uk/childrens-zone/classes/> with learning activities should your child have to be isolated at home.

To reiterate I realise that this is a very worrying time for all of us and the safety of pupils, staff and the school community remains our priority. We will keep you updated with any new information.

Yours sincerely



Mrs G Constable
Headteacher