



9.10.20

Dear Parents and Carers

### Coronavirus Update

### Parents' Evenings

Thank you for your co-operation in our first ever parents' evenings by telephone. Whilst not ideal, as we would always prefer to meet parents in person, initial feedback has been that these were very successful. Let's hope that circumstances have improved by the time we have our next parents' evenings.

### Drop Off and Collection

We also thank you for assisting us in operating our rolling drop-off and collection times.

- Please try to select the quietest times in order to reduce congestion and the number of people with whom you will come into contact.
- We ask that **only one adult** accompanies each family group.
- Please try to keep children from different year groups apart, and maintain a two metre distance from our staff and from each other.
- Please do not arrive early as you will have to wait in the playground with other parents/carers and children, which is exactly what we are trying to avoid.
- Avoid arriving before the rolling drop off/collection times as this will result in congregation at the school gate which is exactly what we have tried to avoid by setting up this system.
- Drop off is between 8:45 and 9:15 in the main school and between 8:45 and 9:15 (or 12:30 and 1 for afternoon sessions) in the Nursery. Arrivals after 9:15 will be marked as 'late'. Children should be taken to the office if they are late in the morning. However, please do all you can to avoid this scenario since it increases the likelihood of transmission of the virus.



- Children, who make their own way to school, should not arrive early and should enter the building as soon as they arrive in order to minimise contact with others.
- Collection is between 14:50 and 15:20 in the main school and between 11:15 and 11:45 (or 3 and 3:30 for afternoon sessions) in the Nursery.

### Essential measures for opening

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home;
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene;
- enhanced cleaning arrangements;
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace;
- reduced contacts and maximised distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimising potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

Please note: for the sake of reducing transmission of the virus, the school office remains closed to parents and carers. However, should you need to contact us, you may email your enquiries directly to the school at [enquiries@parliamentfederation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@parliamentfederation.co.uk) and we will respond as quickly as possible. Our staff are still here and eager to help.

### Covid Symptoms

Please do not send your child into school with coronavirus symptoms. The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature - this means your child **feels hot to touch on their chest or back** (you do not need to measure your child's temperature);
- a new, continuous cough - this means **coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours** (if your child usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- a loss or change to your child's sense of smell or taste - this means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

The child does not have to exhibit all the symptoms above - **just one**.

If any member of your household is exhibiting any of these symptoms, your whole household must self-isolate until the result of a test is known. This means you must not send your child into school.

**It is illegal to break self-isolation laws. You can be fined by the police.**

We are aware that the ever-changing rules are confusing. Please contact the office if you are worried about your child or unsure what to do, but do not bring them into school. We are always happy to advise you.

If your child is sent home due to having symptoms, their sibling(s) will also need to be collected at the same time. You only need to arrange a test for the child who is unwell.

Unless the school is advised of a negative test result, your child will not be able to return to school for ten days (their sibling must stay away for fourteen days). These are the Government guidelines.

Should the test result be positive, please contact the school as a matter of urgency. The school is obliged to report all children with positive results to the local health protection team who will advise the school on any course of action required.

It is important to take this disease seriously. Remember, children tend not to get particularly ill with Covid-19 - thankfully. This is why it is important that we all engage with the NHS Test and Trace, even when children's symptoms are mild.

### **Handwashing Advice to Defeat Coronavirus**

Everyone in school is washing their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs a mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands thoroughly afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus.

Out of school, hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (e.g. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing hands together and rinsing with water provides.

Please do not allow your children to bring hand sanitiser into school. They will always have access to soap and water which is a much better option.

Despite peculiar rumours to the contrary, Kirton Primary School has not changed its soap. It is the same soap we have always used; it is a gentle, child-friendly soap and contains moisturiser. It is simply the frequency of handwashing that makes everyone's skin dry (including every member of our staff), but this is essential to combat the transmission of Coronavirus. This is a small price to pay to keep our children, staff and wider community safe.

Please leave hand creams at home as they provide a 'sticky surface' for the virus to adhere to on children's hands. Should your child's hands become dry, it is safer to apply plenty of cream when they get home. Apply a little more just before they go to bed.

## Face Coverings

As you are aware, the Government advises against the use of face coverings for primary school children. Children find it difficult not to touch their faces when wearing a mask. For safety reasons, children cannot take part in PE or playground games whilst wearing a face covering. They also need to remove and replace the mask each time they eat or drink which increases the likelihood of transmission.

The Local Authority recommends face coverings for all children who use public transport whatever their age (although this is not mandatory). If you think your child is responsible enough to use a face covering on the school bus or taxi, you might wish to consider this.

## Quarantine

If your child visits a country which is under quarantine laws, or comes under quarantine laws, over half term, they must not return to school for 14 days after their return to the UK.

**It is illegal to break quarantine laws. You can be fined by the police.**

We hope this information is useful, but repeat that we know how confusing the ever-changing information can be. Please contact the office about anything you are unsure of.

Above all, the staff at Kirton Primary School want to thank you for your support and understanding through what has been a difficult period for all of us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Donley

Executive Head teacher