

Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

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Coronavirus Updates 18.03.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will all be aware that updated advice now states that if anyone in the family home is showing symptoms of Coronavirus (high temperature and/or a consistent cough) the whole family should self-isolate for 14 days. Further advice today from Public Health England clarifies this:

- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, 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 the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period.

Please support us in adhering to these guidelines. We appreciate these are challenging times for everyone, but please don't send your children back to school before the 14 days are up and please keep children off school if there are others in the home showing symptoms. If we all work together, we stand a better chance of more staff being well enough to come to work, meaning the school can stay open. Please also respect the staff when you are called to collect your child/ren. They are not responsible for the guidance, but do have a duty of care to follow it.

Thank you to those who are sending children in with water bottles. There are still some children coming to school without them, so please make sure these are sent in and taken home each day to avoid your children becoming dehydrated.

As of Tuesday, children with packed lunches will eat in their classrooms and those who have a school dinner will eat in the hall. This avoids large gatherings of children in one location and also gives children longer outside in the fresh air.

Swimming for year three and school trips for all year groups have been cancelled at this time, with no trips taking place prior to the Easter break. Children will have collective worship in their classes or with another class, but we will not be coming together as a whole school.

Only essential visitors will be permitted to come to the school and any staff training booked has been cancelled. Information about how to access learning at home will be coming out from all year groups by the end of the week.

We have had a couple of children coming to school with face masks but as the guidance (below) from Public Health England states there is no evidence this is any benefit from using these outside clinical settings, children will be asked to remove them whilst in school 'We do not recommend the use of facemasks as an effective means of preventing the spread of infection. Facemasks play an important role in clinical settings, such as hospitals, but there's very little evidence of benefit from their use outside of these settings' (Public Health England)

Many thanks for your continued support

Mrs K Scott Headteacher