



Castle Camps C of E (VC) Primary School
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Tuesday, 17th March 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

Coronavirus Update

Following yesterday's press announcement from the Prime Minister, we have received some updated guidance regarding the Coronavirus. These links are on our school website – see News & Events/Coronavirus. **As you will appreciate, this is a very fluid situation and anything we communicate can quickly become out of date. We would encourage parents to follow the news and school website carefully.**

The government has been very clear that schools should remain open. **At Castle Camps, we are continuing to try and operate as normal, however this is extremely challenging due to shortages in staffing.** At the time of writing, we have no known confirmed cases in our school community, but we are continuing to monitor the situation closely. Please be aware that it is possible that schools may be closed in the coming weeks, or that due to staff shortages individual schools and nurseries may need to close at short notice. We have contingency plans in place should this happen with regard to pupils continuing to work at home. We have had no indication of if, or when, schools may be asked to close, but feel that it is prudent to plan for this eventuality. Many schools are already putting in place partial closures where staffing levels fall below that which is safe to operate the school. We will inform you of any closure using Facebook, the school website and parentmail.

Reminder:

If anyone presents with symptoms of the coronavirus then they are now required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from the onset of their symptoms. These symptoms are:

- a new and continuous cough
- a high temperature (over 37.8 degrees)

There is some detailed guidance from the government about what self-isolation involves at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

If any pupil has to self-isolate, then they should continue to work at home, health permitting. Staff will set work via the class pages of the school website.

Castle Camps: The Current Situation (as of 17/03/20)

- Our aim is to remain operational for as long as it is safe and feasible to do so. However, this is being reviewed on a daily basis.
- Like other schools, we are receiving daily updates from the Local Authority.
- At an emergency meeting this morning, all staff have been briefed and a detailed risk assessment put in place.
- **Staff classed as within the vulnerable category have been encouraged to self-isolate for 12 weeks** (with immediate effect). Currently, we are considering how to provide teaching cover for Mrs Bergin and Mrs MacBean. This situation is challenging and we ask for your patience.
- Parents of pupils with existing medical conditions are advised to follow guidance regarding social distancing/self-isolation. Please contact the school office if you are unsure.
- Office staff have checked pupil medication is in school and in date



- All volunteers and visitors to school will be banned from entering the building until Easter, when the situation will be reviewed. Parents of Reception and Nursery children are asked to hand over their children to staff at door and not enter the classroom.
- All staff and pupils have been reminded of correct handwashing procedures.
- Cleaning procedures have been upgraded.
- Science Week has been postponed until further notice.
- All South Cambridgeshire Sports Tournaments have been cancelled by the Sports Partnership.
- The EYFS/KS1 trip to Wimpole Hall has been cancelled, as the farm is now closed to visitors.
- Courses for staff have been cancelled.
- Class photographs have been postponed.
- The FOCCS Cake sale has been postponed.
- The Mother's Day gifts will be on sale to children at lunchtime on Thursday and Friday – this will be organised by staff and pupils.
- With the exception of Yoga Club, clubs will run as normal until further notice.
- School assemblies will take place within classrooms and not as a whole school.
- Additional measures are being put in place regarding first aid procedures.
- Home learning packs are being uploaded to the school website class pages.
- If any pupil has any difficulty with accessing work from home, they should ask for assistance from our school office.

Understandably the uncertainty regarding this situation may cause some pupils and their families much anxiety but be assured that we will always prioritise the welfare and education of our pupils. Please make sure that you are able to access your emails and mobile numbers as this is our main form of communication.

Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.



Miss A. O'Connor
Headteacher