

17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus Update

As you are probably aware, the Government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. The purpose of this letter is to let you know our response in light of this and action required from you to help make sure our school and childcare community keeps safe and calm.

At St. Bede Trust and Childcare we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the Government. Our current situation is as follows:

- The school/nursery remains open and we will do all we can to remain so.
- We have robust hygiene routines in place for cleaning the building and topping up cleaning points of common contact such as door handles, keyboards etc. We also ensure children hand wash frequently during the day and discussions around hygiene happen during the school day.
- All core school/nursery functions continue to run as normal.
- Details of how parents are charged for nursery places/out of school club care during this time will be sent in a separate letter.

Children should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms the child, and everyone living in the same household, should remain at home for 14 days:

- a new, continuous cough and/or a temperature

If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by telephoning the school.

Whilst in keeping the school open, it is difficult to control large numbers of children coming together and we will, where practical, attempt to minimise this. One such way we will be doing so will be not to hold assemblies in the hall, from Thursday; instead assemblies will be held in class. We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

PLEASE TURN OVER

Head of School: Mrs S. Rostron

St Bede Primary Academy, Morris Green Lane, Bolton, BL3 3LJ

Telephone: 01204 61899 Website: www.stbedeacademy.org Company Registered Number: 07628909

Could I please ask that, as parents and carers, you take note of the following:

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office/nursery manager as soon as possible.
- Please ensure that you have access to our website.
- Please talk to your children about the coronavirus. We should make sure children feel supported. BBC Newsround has regular updates for younger children and YoungMinds has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.
- Please could you make every effort to come and collect your child as soon as possible, if we ask you to; we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new cough. We appreciate this can be difficult, however we do follow Government guidance and do not contact parents lightly.

At the moment we have no plans to close the school/nursery and we will only do so if we are either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run safely. In either case, we will:

- Alert parents as soon as possible through every practical means available – Twitter and the Website will be the two main methods. Further details, including plans to re-open, will be supplied through this media.
- Advise specifically about how school age children should continue to access education from home. Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the community prepare and, we re-emphasise, there are currently no plans to close, although this situation is developing quickly.

If you have any questions please consult the:

- School/nursery office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue, but not for advice about whether or not your child should be in school.
- NHS, if you want to know more about the symptoms of Coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use NHS 111 online if at all possible before calling 111.
- Department for Education's Coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the Government's response to Coronavirus in relation to schools.
- Government's travel advice, if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead.

We appreciate that this is a difficult time and we know you may be worried about the impact this might have on your child as well as our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Jack Hatch O.B.E
Chief Executive Officer

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