



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Bridestowe Primary School
Bridestowe
Okehampton
Devon EX20 4EL
Tel: 01837 861361

Email: admin@bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk
www.bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk

Acting Head of School: Mr A Hill

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have further reviewed our approach to managing the risks associated with the COVID-19 virus in line with the latest national guidance. As you will no doubt be aware, the government has drastically escalated its control measures but schools still remain open. The focus is now to delay the spread of the virus and to protect those who are vulnerable due to their underlying health conditions.

Current guidance regarding self-isolation is as follows: if your child or another household member display the symptoms of a persistent cough and/or a high temperature (37.8c or above), 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. These measures are aimed at slowing the spread of the virus.

In addition, our focus must also be on protecting those in the school and the community who are vulnerable due to their underlying medical conditions. As a result, national guidance describes the requirement for social distancing for vulnerable people. These groups have been defined as:

- those over 70 years of age
- those who are pregnant
- people with chronic respiratory diseases including such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis
- people with chronic heart, kidney or liver disease
- people with chronic neurological conditions, including Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, a learning disability or cerebral palsy
- diabetes
- problems with your spleen such as sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system
- being seriously overweight (a BMI of 40 or above)

In line with national guidance, the Trust *strongly advises* that these people stay away from school for the next 12 weeks. Therefore, if you have a child at the school *or a member of your household* who falls within these categories, then please contact the school as we will look to accommodate any reasonable case. There is the potential for these absences to be coded as 'exceptional circumstances' and all such cases will be viewed sympathetically.

More generally, the school will be focussing on its core activities. Off-site visits and extra-curricular activities will cease as will unnecessary events and visitors to the school site. School closure is not planned. However, depletion of our workforce could force us down this path in the future. We will monitor the situation as well as national guidance and respond accordingly. Our staff are preparing material for online learning or home study so that we can carry on providing education for cases of self-isolation or partial or complete closure of the school.

We understand that these are unsettling times and that the evolving situation places a strain on you and your children, but we hope this helps to clarify our current position. The situation remains fluid, so we will keep our plan under constant review and will notify you as things change.

Yours faithfully,

Adam Hill

Acting Head of School