

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## FLIXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you are aware, advice regarding the Covid-19 'coronavirus' outbreak is being constantly updated as the situation develops. Yesterday, the Government signalled a move from the first phase of its plan to tackle the virus, the containment phase, to the delay phase.

This requires us, as a school, to change our approach in line with guidelines and our understanding of the requirements of this phase of the plan. We have considered how best to approach this, in a way that preserves as much of normal school life as possible. We will not be closing the school unless we are directed to do so by Government. We will, however, be making a few changes and postponing some events to assist with attempts to begin a process of social distancing. These changes are an attempt to minimise the interactions between groups of people across the school community.

It is important for us to recognise that the overwhelming majority of children are not at significant health risk from Covid-19, but they could carry the virus into settings or groups where people are at higher risk, such as the elderly.

From Monday, the school will be taking the following actions to minimise social interaction and contact:

- The gate to the Junior Department will be open earlier, to allow parents to drop their children off and leave, rather than gather in the ginnel;
- The remaining **two Year 6 pop up cafes are being postponed**, and will hopefully be rearranged in the summer term when the guidance changes for the better;
- Departmental and whole school assemblies will be cancelled and lunchtime arrangements altered, where possible, to minimise numbers of children together in the hall;
- The forthcoming **music assemblies for Year 2, Year 5 and Rock Steady have been postponed**;
- **Next week's Parents' Evenings are being postponed**. Again, like the cafes, this will be rearranged as soon as guidance changes.

If your child is absent for any reason, please can you ensure that you leave a message, or speak to the office, explaining clearly the reasons why. If your child develops a continuous cough OR a temperature of 37.8°C (100°F) or above, we would ask that you keep them off school for seven days as a precautionary measure. When leaving a message, please let us know if they have either of these symptoms so that we can mark the register accordingly.

The Year 6 trip to the Isle of Man is in July, and although the current guidance would prevent us from travelling, we are hopeful that by the time we need to make a final decision about the trip, the advice will have changed for the better. I will keep Year 6 parents informed as the situation develops – as it stands we are hopeful we will be going, but mindful that to do so would require a change in guidance. Please continue to make payments, as we will continue to book what needs to be booked, safe in the knowledge that if we are advised by Government not to travel, there will be a full refund.

I apologise for any inconvenience that these actions will cause, but I am sure you understand that the school has a responsibility, as a key part of our community, to play its part in attempting to delay the spread of Covid-19. I feel the measures outlined above are manageable, proportionate and reasonable steps for us to take to help protect everyone. This situation is unprecedented, and as such it is likely that guidance will be updated again, and that I will need to write to you again to ensure you know what school is doing, and why. Please continue to encourage good hand hygiene in your children. It remains the most effective method to prevent the spread of the virus.

J Redmond  
Headteacher

If you need to cough or sneeze			You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser				
<b>Catch it</b> with a tissue	<b>Bin it</b>	<b>Kill it</b> by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser	<b>After breaks &amp; sport activities</b>	<b>Before cooking &amp; eating</b>	<b>SCHOOL ETC.</b> On arrival at any childcare or educational setting	<b>After using the toilet</b>	<b>Before leaving home</b>
Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands	Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles	If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels					