

DOTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Severn Drive, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 3JB

Telephone 01952 386870



Head Teacher: Becca Butler

17th March 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents/Carers

Information and advice is changing on a daily basis and I will do my best to keep you up to date with everything that impacts on Dothill.

Following the statement from the Government yesterday the new NHS advice is:

Stay at home if you have either:

- a high temperature - you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough - this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.

How long to stay at home

- If you have symptoms, stay at home for 7 days
- If you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms
- If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.
- If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

I appreciate that parents are concerned about their children's health and wellbeing at this time, especially if they have an underlying medical condition that could put them at greater risk. For this reason, I fully understand if you decide to self-isolate and keep your child at home. The advice from the DFE is that we authorise this absence with a Y-code:

Where a pupil is in self-isolation, in accordance with latest information and advice from Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England, the pupil should be recorded as unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances in the attendance register. Code Y (Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) should be used in this instance.

There are many, many events, meetings and gatherings that are being cancelled, even as I write this letter. We have been informed this morning that the following events are cancelled:

- Telford Sings choir event
- Year 5 trip to Keele University
- All Telford and Wrekin Music lessons (they will be in touch with parents directly)
- All Saints Church Easter Experience Year 3/4

We are aware that you have made a voluntary contribution towards the cost of some of these trips and may require a refund. We will endeavour to arrange refunds in a timely manner, however, as you can imagine we have our hands full in managing the current circumstances and would appreciate your



E-mail: a3368@telford.gov.uk

Website: www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk

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patience. It would help us greatly in reducing administration work if you did NOT require a refund for your trip and were willing to consider it as a contribution to school fund. Rest assured it would be used for the benefit of all pupils. Please note, contributions cannot be held over in 'credit' for your child's next trip. If you feel that you require a refund then please put this in writing stating the following: Child's name, class, name of trip, amount paid.

There are other planned events that may be impacted on and we will let you know as soon as we can:

- Year 5 knife Angel trip
- Y2 nature reserve trip.

After school clubs will continue as planned for the rest of this term but there will be no after school clubs planned for the summer term at this time. We will no longer be accepting slips and money for the advertised summer term clubs. Any money already paid for the summer term will be refunded by the leaders of the clubs in due course.

Currently, we have been instructed by the Government to keep our schools open and we will continue to follow this directive. This is only possible if our staff remain well, and we have enough staff in each school to operate. If we have a significant issue with staff absence, then it is very likely we will have to make some tough decisions regarding how we continue to function.

I will continue to keep you updated with any information I receive or decisions that we are making as soon as I am able. Please keep in touch with the school website <http://www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk/> as this is the most efficient way of keeping you informed. Thank you for your support at this challenging time.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RBW' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Becca Butler
Head Teacher

