



Upper Beeding Primary School

School Road, Upper Beeding, BN44 3HY.

Tel: 01903 812288 Fax: 01903 816401

Email: office@upperbeeding.w-sussex.sch.uk

Website: <https://upper-beeding.eschools.co.uk/web>

Headteacher: Mrs R Linford

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carer

Coronavirus Update

I am writing to you to update you further on the ongoing issues presented by the current Coronavirus outbreak. Clearly this is a rapidly changing situation, and we are very grateful for the support and sensible decisions that you as parents and members of the community are making.

The health and safety of all members of the community is our number one priority and as a result we are monitoring and implementing any actions that Government announcements require on a daily basis. It is difficult to predict exactly what will happen in the coming days and weeks, but as a school we have plans in place for most eventualities and appreciate your continued support and understanding.

After yesterday's Government update and advice, we are taking further action to minimise the risk to the health and safety of our children. **Currently, Upper Beeding Primary School will remain open as this is the official guidance we have been given** and will aim to do so until advised to close by the Department for Education and Public Health England, or we do not have enough staff to ensure our children are safe.

We would like pupils to attend school unless they feel unwell or you have a family member in the household who is exhibiting symptoms. If your child has **a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature, they should remain at home for 7 days**. If they have no symptoms, but a family member does, the advice is for the whole household to self-isolate for 14 days to see if symptoms appear to therefore reduce potential spread of the virus. Please see advice on link below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

If your child is unwell, please report this in the normal way through the school office. If your child complains of any of the symptoms mentioned above whilst at school, we will contact you to take them home.

What are we further doing to protect and support pupils and staff?

- Children will be dropped off and handed over to adults at the external doors from Wednesday 18th March
- Parents should not come into school with their children in the mornings
- All extra-curricular clubs have been cancelled both after school and at lunchtime
- All assemblies have been cancelled including Morocco's class assembly this Friday
- External events and visitors have been cancelled
- When picking up at end of the day please think about the social distancing recommendations from PHE and be considerate to others
- There will be additional cleaning of surfaces that pupils and staff touch, eg, handles, rails and tables.
- All pupils and staff will need to wash their hands with soap and hot water when they arrive at school, before they eat, and before they go home



What we would ask you to do

- Please let us know if your child does not have access to the internet from home, so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point
- Please make sure your child has their own water bottle in school and it is washed daily

What we are talking to children about

- How they can access the school VLE, checking that they have their login
- What they can do to keep themselves and other healthy
- How they can help each other

Events that are currently still going ahead

We will be continuing with our KS1 school trip on Friday 20th March and currently the Y5/6 Isle of Wight Residential is still going ahead. As you are aware with the daily updates and changing advice, we will be reviewing this on a day to day basis. If any parent does not wish their child to go on trips, then please speak to the Office. As the DfE is not advising against domestic trips (residential and non-residential) for children under 18, we would currently not be able to refund your payments if you choose not to send your child.

What will happen if the school has to close?

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school and keep children safe. In either case, we will notify parents/carers via email and text, and will also put up a post on our website and Twitter page.

If this happens, we will set work via the VLE. **You will need your parent login to access the VLE (this is the login you use to book parent meeting appointments). Proposed work will be put on the class home page. Please contact us if you do not have your parent login so we can arrange for this to be sent to you. Alternatively, you can use your child's VLE login.**

Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare and there are currently no plans to close.

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [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
- If you have any questions about the Government's response to Coronavirus in relation to schools, please contact the Department for Education's Coronavirus helpline 0800 046 8687
- If you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you are taking abroad should go ahead, please contact Government's [travel advice](#)

Responding to personal contact emails etc.

We will keep you informed with regular formal update letters as more guidance comes from the authorities. This will potentially take a little time to turn around, particularly central announcements that are made outside of school hours. Please be aware that our office team and teaching staff are also heavily involved in developing our contingency plans, or might be unwell, and therefore may not be able to respond to emails/calls directly or in our usual timeframe as our capacity will be limited.

We are facing an unprecedented challenge with the Coronavirus outbreak. Whilst current evidence suggests that young people are generally not too adversely affected by the symptoms, we are conscious that older members of



our community and those with underlying health conditions are at much greater risk. It is vital that we all do what we can to mitigate the effect of this virus in the coming weeks and potentially months, and prepare for the full range of possible outcomes we may be forced to take.

Thank you for your continued support and offers of help.

Best wishes

Becky Linford
Headteacher

