



St Ippolyts C.E. (Aided) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. R. E. Peddie

Ashbrook Lane, St. Ippolyts, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7PB
Tel: 01462 432080 Fax: 01462 438524 Email: admin@stipps.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.stipps.herts.sch.uk



13th March 2020

Dear Parents,

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As you will no doubt be aware, yesterday the government announced that we are now in the 'delay' phase of the coronavirus situation.

As a school we are following all advice from Hertfordshire County Council, Public Health England and the indeed government directives.

At this stage, there are no plans for wide scale school closures, unless members of the school community test positive for the virus. Schools remain open and we expect that all children will attend school every day. If we are required to close we will give you as much notice as possible.

However, as this is a rapidly evolving situation, the possibility of national school closures cannot be ruled out at some point in the future. It may be wise therefore, to consider how this would impact your family in terms of childcare should this be implemented further down the line.

Advice for individuals has now changed with regard to self-isolation and you should check how these may apply to you and your family using the official government websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

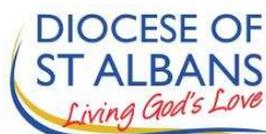
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

As per the guidance issued yesterday, if your child has the following, you will need to self-isolate them for 7 days.

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

If we are concerned that your child is displaying these symptoms in school, we are likely to contact you to ask for them to be collected. We would be very grateful for your swift cooperation should this occur.



This week the staff have been making contingency plans for if a school closure is issued. If school is closed, the teachers will be providing workbooks and activities for the children to complete at home. We have also set up class email accounts so that teachers can communicate with parents about school work and learning support in the event of a longer term school closure.

There are a number of sports competitions, trips and other school events in the coming weeks and months that may be impacted as the situation develops. Please ensure you inform us immediately if your contact numbers have changed as some events may have to be cancelled at short notice.

Today we have received confirmation that the following events are postponed:

- Netball rural schools rally Monday 16th March
- Girls football end of season rally at Wilshere Dacre Saturday 14th March
- Boys athletics county finals Tuesday 17th March
- Rapid Fire Cricket county finals Friday 20th March
- Boys A Team end of season rally at Wilshere Dacre Saturday 21st March

It is likely that other scheduled events may also be postponed; we will inform you as soon as we know.

In the meantime, we continue to be very vigilant in school about regular handwashing, personal hygiene and thorough cleaning routines.

If you are looking for a good way to explain coronavirus to your children, the following video is very helpful:

<https://www.mykentfamily.co.uk/primary/dr-ranjs-coronavirus-advice-for-kids-223058/>

I would like to thank you for your support and cooperation in these highly unusual and challenging circumstances. I will write again with any further relevant updates or guidance as I have it.

Yours sincerely

Mrs RE Peddie
Headteacher

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

If you need to cough or sneeze

- Catch it with a tissue
- Bin it
- Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

- After breaks & sport activities
- Before cooking & eating
- SCHOOL ETC. On arrival at any childcare or educational setting
- After using the toilet
- Before leaving home

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