



BRAMFORD AND SOMERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL FEDERATION



Executive Headteacher: Mrs E Burgess

Bramford CEVC Primary School
Duckamere, Bramford, Suffolk, IP8 4AH
Tel: 01473 741598 Fax: 01473 741713
Email: office@bramfordprimary.net
Deputy Headteachers:
Mrs S Lankester/Mrs J Squirrell

Somersham Primary School
Church Lane, Lower Somersham, Suffolk IP8 4PN
Tel: 01473 831251
Email: office@somershamprimary.net
Head of School: Mrs C Oldfield

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to you in regards to the ongoing **coronavirus outbreak**.

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed following Boris Johnson's announcement from Downing Street yesterday afternoon.

We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

Official advice as of today is that our schools will remain open and your child should continue to attend school unless they feel unwell. If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally.

Stay at home if you have coronavirus symptoms

If your **child or anyone else in your household** has any of the following symptoms they should remain at home for 14 days:-

- **a high temperature** – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- **and/or a new, continuous cough** – this means you have 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.

If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk.

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.

What else are we doing at school?

Given that coronavirus information changes on a daily basis we are constantly reviewing our procedures in school and in-line with DfE guidance which we receive daily. Here are some of the additional precautions we have introduced in addition to all of our usual and thorough cleaning routines:

- cleaning and disinfecting regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual;

- taking extra precautions when serving dinners and when the weather allows encouraging children having packed lunches to eat outside to reduce numbers in the school hall;
- ventilating spaces as much as possible and keeping doors propped open to avoid touching of door handles;
- educating pupils about hygiene and handwashing and ensuring this is being done properly and regularly – this is the most important thing we can all do to protect ourselves. I would like to reassure parents and carers that we currently have sufficient stocks of hand soap/sanitiser;
- working within own classrooms as much as possible and not coming together from today for whole school assemblies;
- providing opportunities for pupils to talk about what is happening and ask questions, helping them to manage their anxieties;
- sending any pupils who become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough home as soon as possible and keeping them away from others until they are collected;
- If a parent has informed us that they are keeping their child at home due to isolation procedures this is marked as a 'Y' in the register and so is an authorised absence.

In light of the updated guidance, and also to reduce the number of visitors coming into our schools, please also be aware of the following changes at both of our schools:-

After-School Clubs

From Wednesday 18th March all after-school clubs will be cancelled.

School Trips

All planned school trips are being cancelled due to the latest advice around social distancing. Refunds for these will be organised and returned to parents as soon as possible.

School Events

In line with government advice around social distancing, all school events are also being cancelled for the time being. This includes:

- Sharing Assemblies
- Parents' Evenings
- Mothers' Day Lunch at Somersham
- Easter Workshop at Somersham
- Easter Service at Bramford
- Non-essential meetings

The decision to cancel trips, clubs and events has not been taken lightly and I understand the concern and disappointment that this will cause, however, with the instructions given by the Government yesterday with regard to social distancing this is the appropriate action to take. As soon as things return to normal we will aim to reschedule some of these events.

As a public body we are legally bound to follow government advice and will close if directed to do so by Public Health England or in the event that we do not have enough staff to run the school safely. We will of course communicate with you any further measures that we put in place and any updates from the government which could mean a change to the current situation as soon as we become aware of these.

If our schools should have to close we will notify you as soon as possible using our usual means of communication and also by posting a message on our federation website: www.bramsonfederation.net

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E Burgess
Executive Headteacher

What can you do to help your child?

- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](http://www.bbc.com/news/health) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](http://www.youngminds.org.uk) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety. There is also a video to reassure children on BBC Newsround. If your child is feeling anxious about Covid 19, this Newsround video may support you in explaining the virus and why not to worry.
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- If the schools should close, we will provide learning activities for your child remotely using a site such as Google Classroom. This will require access to an internet enabled device. If you are concerned that this will cause you any issues then please let us know so we can make sure you will be able to access remote learning opportunities for your child(ren).

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's travel advice, www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

The following links are those from which we are taking all advice:

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