

Believe Care Persevere Succeed



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Dear Parents,

Coronavirus Update

Following the latest advice regarding self-isolation we have already seen a big impact on pupil absence and staffing levels for various reasons. To reassure you, at present we have no confirmed cases of coronavirus in the school. Thank you to all our families who are being mindful of others and staying at home. Other families have chosen to keep their children at home due to their concerns about coming to school at the current time. Some are at home because other family members are vulnerable and the whole family are staying home together from now on. As I stated yesterday, I fully understand such decisions and they are recorded as authorised absences. You have my full support in deciding what is best for your family.

Some of our children and staff have underlying medical conditions which mean they need to stay at home to keep safe. We all send our very best wishes to everyone in the BCP community at this time.

As I am sure you will expect, the consequences of reduced numbers of staff mean that organisational changes are being made on a daily basis. You may find that your child enjoys the company of different teachers and support staff in their classroom. The team are doing an amazing job of placing themselves wherever they are needed and will not necessarily always work in their usual year groups. Watch this space!

We need to prepare ourselves for the probability that there will be too few adults in school to safely supervise every child. I am sure you will already have considered the possibility of child care arrangements should the need arise. Please keep thinking about this as it is possible that we will be undertaking partial closures in the first instance by asking specific year groups to stay at home. We hope to avoid a full closure for as long as possible or until we are told to do so by the Government. I apologise in advance that these arrangements may be made at short notice although I will do my best to let you know as quickly as possible.

There are some decisions that have been made that I can update you about. Disappointingly, we will no longer be holding Sharing Assemblies until further notice. All after school clubs have finished from now on and Rock Steady lessons and the concert are also no longer running. The Hampshire Music lessons held in school have also stopped temporarily. We will continue with all of these as soon as we can.

On a more positive note, behind the scenes, Mr Mason and the cleaning team are working tirelessly to maintain infection control standards. They even conduct an additional clean on Saturdays morning to ensure that every necessary area is addressed. Thanks must go to them from all of us.

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Our ladies in the office are also doing a fantastic job. They have had a huge increase in their workload and a constant stream of new problems to solve, but we can still see their smiling faces. So important in times of uncertainty.

We have continued to receive many kind and motivating words of encouragement and appreciation. Thank you for keeping us going! In turn, I would like to comment on the calm and cheerful atmosphere that the staff have noticed as you drop off and pick up your children. You have appreciated that you have been asked to remain outside the building and we are grateful for your understanding.

We must also remember our children who are experiencing something which is very unsettling for us all. They are showing us that they are far more resilient than we might think and adjusting to each day very sensibly. Some of you have rightly expressed concerns that they may be starting to worry about what coronavirus means for them. Mrs Vatcher has selected some useful resources which you may like to share with your child at home. I hope you find them useful.

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/coronavirus-14-day-self-isolation-activities/>

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/?s=corona+virus+story>

Staff are also addressing the situation with their classes to reassure and support their wellbeing.

The commitment of the teachers and support staff remains consistent. They are focussed on providing what the children need each day and are showing their willingness to adapt quickly to the new challenges. As I am unfortunately one of the staff members who is currently working from home, I would like to thank them all enormously for their efforts and carrying on brilliantly without me on site.

I hope to be back very soon. In the meantime, if you want to contact me for anything at all you are welcome to email me direct a.armstrong@bcp.hants.sch.uk or arrange with the office for me to ring you.

I will be in touch again tomorrow.

Best wishes to you all,

Ali Armstrong
Headteacher