

# WAKEFIELD METHODIST (VC) J, I & N SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mrs D Clark



Dear Parents,

As you will have seen, yesterday, the Prime Minister upgraded the country's required response to containing the Coronavirus.

This global pandemic is the largest public health event in a generation and we should act accordingly but also ensure we do not cause anyone unnecessary panic or alarm and keep a happy, safe and effective learning environment in operation as long as possible.

As a further update to the letter we sent recently describing our actions in school to keep our children and their families safe, please see below the next stages of our response and what you can also do to help us and the broader efforts to minimise the potential impact of this illness.

In school, we will;

- Ensure childrens' hands are washed as they arrive and at regular appropriate times during the day.
- Minimise the number of large collective, confined activities in school. There will be no whole school collective worship and special mentions for the foreseeable future. At lunchtimes children will be staggered into the hall.
- Easter gatherings such as foundation inspire, church services and Easter performances will be cancelled as will the Easter disco.
- Keep fresh air moving in school as much as possible.
- Encouraging outdoor learning where necessary.
- Enhance the daily cleaning regime in school.
- Water is no longer being placed on lunchtime tables for children to self-serve, a member of staff is going to serve water. Cutlery will also be given to children individually rather than them self-selecting from the baskets on tables.
- Encourage children and adults not to have unnecessary direct contact, including hand shaking and (very sadly – but only temporarily) non-urgent hugging etc. Your child will still know that we care about them and that they are safe.
- Monitor closely the health of our children and staff – this might mean asking you to keep your child at home for 14 days if a new, continuous cough or a temperature is detected. If a member of staff develops the mild symptoms we will also ensure the advice is followed. Because these measures will be precautionary, we will not generally inform you of such absences, but of course we will ensure teaching is covered appropriately where possible.
- Begin to prepare for the possibility of a school closure if the government thinks it might be necessary at some time in the future by preparing ideas and resources for learning at home

You can help us by;

- Keeping a really close eye out for the symptoms described by the government in your child / children. The symptoms are a NEW, CONTINUOUS COUGH, **OR** a TEMPERATURE ABOVE 37.8 degrees, and by keeping them at home and taking action as advised as



quickly as possible if needed. Please let us know in school if you are keeping your child off so we can keep an appropriate record.

- Remember any person displaying the symptoms detailed above must self-isolate for 14 days along with all members of their household.
- Avoid congregating both inside and outside of the school building. We still want to hear from you but it would be much better to ring or email us. We will ensure our telephone lines and emails are monitored regularly. Please email: [adminstaff@methodist.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:adminstaff@methodist.wakefield.sch.uk)
- To encourage social distancing for all, and to support our current climate, we will open doors from 8.50 – 9.10 and children can arrive at school and proceed straight to their classroom, this will hopefully avoid congregation in the playground. At the end of the school day, children can be collected between 3.15-3.30 from their usual collection door.
- Ensure children have their own, named water bottle for school and ensure they are clear that they should not share it with other people.
- Please do not worry unduly or allow your child to become too anxious. We need to respond to this issue seriously and responsibly but also in a way that children understand and can engage fully and positively with. We are working hard in school to maintain an upbeat, calm and resilient environment.
- Begin to prepare for the possibility of a school closure if the government thinks it might be necessary at some time in the future by considering appropriate care options.

I hope these measures assure you we are trying to balance our duty to the health and safety of your child / children and the wider public health concerns with the essential job of keeping children feeling safe, happy, feeling cared for and secure.

We will, of course keep in very close touch with both yourself and the appropriate authorities during this time, receiving and responding to relevant information and guidance and providing you with updates as appropriate.

Take care

Mrs Clark