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15th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. 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.

We'd like to reassure you that at St.George's Junior School we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions continue to run as normal
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
  - a new, continuous cough and/or
  - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by informing the school office via admin@st-georges-jun.shropshire.sch.uk or telephoning 01743 357133 before 09:30
- All clubs and trips are still planned to go ahead however, they may have to be cancelled if further advice is received
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation via parentmail and the school website

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff:

- We will contact you should your child feel unwell, develop a temperature and/or persistant cough to ask you to collect your child immediately
- We will encourage all pupils to continue with regular hand-washing and to make use of the hand sanitisers provided
- We will support the pupils through lessons and assemblies to respond to any questions pupils

What we need you to do:

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via admin@st-georges-jun.shropshire.sch.uk or telephoning 01743 357133
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. BBC Newsround has regular updates for younger children and YoungMinds has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- 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)

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we'll alert parents/carers to closure and proposed dates for reopening via parentmail and a post on the school website. Should this happen, further information will be shared with you to enable pupils to access learning during a short term closure.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. **There are currently no plans to close.**

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- 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
- 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, if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

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.

Mrs Munro
(Head teacher)