

St Benedict's C. of E. VA Junior School

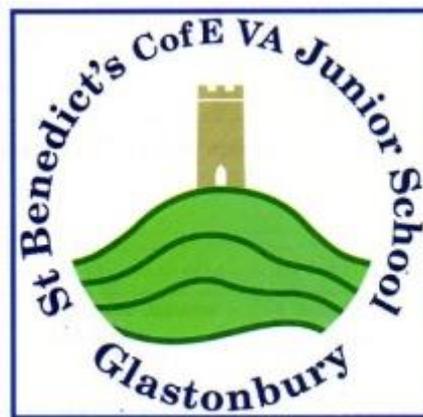
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Headteacher: Mr P. D. Ranger

Dream, Believe, Achieve



13th March 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update

There has been lots of news coverage about the Coronavirus and it is something we are monitoring carefully, as our children's health and safety is our utmost priority. Yesterday the government updated its advice to all:

<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#at-home-try-as-best-you-can-to-separate-yourself-from-the-people-you-live-with>

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVIS-19) are recent onset of:

- New, continuous cough and/or,
- High temperature.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection.

Key messages:

- If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started; this action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious,
- Plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure you can successfully stay at home,
- Ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home,
- Stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible.
- Sleep alone, if possible.
- Wash your hands regularly, for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water.
- Stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible.
- You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact NHS 111 online. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

In light of the above advice, if your child develops symptoms please do not send them into school for at least 7 days from the first day. So that we can ensure the safety of all our pupils, please continue to contact the school office (on 01458 831811) to report your child's absence (on every day that they are absent), simply advising us that they are in self-isolation.

As of today, there are no known positive COVID-19 cases in our school community. If this situation does arise, we will follow government Public Health England advice on how to manage the school at the time and will advise you and your child accordingly.

Staff are reminding children about the importance of handwashing for 20 seconds with soap. Please help us with this by reminding your child to respect basic personal hygiene including cough and sneezes – catch it, bin it, kill it!

Following yesterday's government update, an instruction to close schools does not appear to be imminent, but could happen in the future as part of the 'delay stage' of the virus management response.

The school is working on a contingency plan to deliver learning opportunities to pupils during such a closure period, using online sites such as TT Rockstars, Sumdog and Spelling Shed. We will also ensure pupils have a number of books to read in any time away from school. Please be creative with other 'practical' tasks such as keeping a diary, writing instructions or creating video diaries. There may be a number of other learning opportunities as the situation develops – please see our website for updates.

In the event of a closure, teachers will be contactable through the following e-mail addresses. They will be available between the hours of 9am and 3pm:

Cat Class: cat.164@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Unicorn Class: unicorn.164@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Chameleon Class: chameleon.164@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Owl Class: owl.164@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Tortoise Class: tortoise.164@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Spider Class: spider.164@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Peacock Class: peacock.164@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Leopard Class: leopard.164@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Mr Ranger: headteacher.164@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Please note, these addresses will only be used in the case of closure, so please do not try to contact during regular school times. Please also be aware that these are for learning questions and queries only.

We cannot communicate via other personal e-mail addresses (or messaging apps) for reasons of safeguarding and data protection. Pupils are being reminded of log-ins for any programmes which may be accessed from home. Would you please confirm this by checking that your child has access from home.

If it arises, a closure may come at short notice and, if you have not already, we ask you to think about your preparations in the event that this eventuality does occur. This will include childcare arrangements for the period of closure.

To help us to be able to communicate effectively with you as parent/carer, please can we remind you to update us if your contact details have changed (e.g. mobile phone, e-mail address). Please call the office with any updates (01458) 831811.

For the time being, the government have made no reference to domestic trips and residential visits, so our Year 5 Osmington Bay trip will go ahead. If there are any announcements regarding this next week, we will let you know as soon as possible.

We appreciate that this period is an anxious time. Please can we ask all members of the community to remain courteous and patient with school staff as we attempt to deal with the developing situation. Be assured that we will advise you of any changes as soon as we are able to.

Please check our website (<https://www.stbenedictscovejuniorschoolglastonbury.co.uk/>) and/or our Facebook page for further updates.

Finally, a reminder that the government has an enquiries helpline for parents/carers, young people and school staff on **0800 046 8687**, open Monday to Friday from 8am – 6pm. Alternatively, you can e-mail: DfE.coronavirus@education.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Piers Ranger
Headteacher