



18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Update – Mullion Primary School

The current worldwide health crisis has created anxiety for us all. Our aim is always to support our pupils and whole-school family and this is more important now than ever. We are continuing to take advice from the Department for Education and Public Health England (PHE) with regards to the Coronavirus – COVID-19. The government insists that schools are to remain open and we are working hard to make sure that this is possible. We know that for many, it's important that we remain open as long as possible whilst for others, this is a cause for concern. We would like to thank the staff at Mullion Primary School for their hard work and flexibility in this crisis. Our contingency planning includes a range of options which include closure and partial closure as well as many other steps we are taking to ensure that Mullion remains 'business as usual.' We will continue to keep you up to date but please note you will only hear about any closure of the school directly from the Headteacher and nobody else. **Please ensure that you read to the end of this lengthy communication.**

You will be aware that we have been directed to send home any child or adult with a fever or new, persistent cough. If this should happen, the advice from central Government and PHE is that the whole household should self-isolate for 14 days. Some staff also fall into the 'vulnerable' category themselves or their dependants do; this, as well as self-isolation guidance is being considered in the schools' contingency planning and decision making.

This will obviously affect children, parents and staff and therefore could impact on the day-to-day running of the school. Please be reassured that school will remain open as long as it is safe and possible to do so. Therefore, in order to support this, the following actions **may** be taken:

- Putting classes together with shared staff
- Dividing classes between teachers
- Classes may be combined with children taught in larger groups
- Classes may not have their regular teacher or support staff
- Some lessons may be taught which vary from the usual timetable
- Some timing and frequency of lessons may be changed
- In extreme circumstances the school may be closed or partially closed for some year groups

Other measures put into place this week have included asking all visiting adults to stay out of the school building as much as possible. In addition, all external school trips and sporting events have been cancelled for the remainder of this term.

At drop off and pick up, please leave the school site promptly. We are seeking to avoid the school community coming together in large numbers and at peak times, wherever possible.

Please use the school office email (secretary@mullion-ji.cornwall.sch.uk) or phone number (01326 240585) to communicate with us, rather than coming into school unless you absolutely need to. Should you not get a quick response, please understand that it will be because we are busy supporting children and/or staff. Updates will also be shared via our website and Facebook page but please be reminded that for all communication about Coronavirus and attendance, this should be communicated through the office rather than on Facebook. We know this all sounds very anti-social but these are hopefully short-term measures that will enable us all to stay fit for work and school, for as long as possible.

At this point we think it is important to add context and reality. Despite the Education Minister's announcement that schools will remain open for the time being, we are doing what we must, including preparing for a national closure. We have shared our current and ever-changing action plan with the staff team. This includes planning for how and when we will communicate with parents and vice versa, health and safety elements and what action would be taken should staff fall ill. We are currently compiling work that will be shared with all children via our school website and this will be online within 48 hours to support

those pupils at home who are being isolated. This will be a mix of activities linked to the topic learning, as well as daily key skills. Plans for home learning have been shared with the children, who will bring home a book to complete this learning in. We expect to see these back at school when school reopens.

With this in mind, it is important that you make us aware if your child will not have access to a device to view this work; please make sure we have your correct email address <https://mullion.eschools.co.uk/> and ensure you are checking your emails regularly.

Further information will be available on the classes area of the website. It will contain resources and links to enable our pupils to continue their learning at home and may include:

- A project-type activity sheet linked to our topics;
- Links to online maths or English activities;
- Phonics and reading activities and resources;
- Maths activities and challenges;
- Games and activities you can play together;
- A list of expected basic maths skills to practice
- Times tables activities.

The Chief Medical Officers' advice continues to be regularly updated, as this remains a changing and dynamic situation. If you have any concerns regarding the Coronavirus, please refer to the government guidance, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public> or from Public Health England at:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Finally, please speak to us directly if you are worried or concerned or have any further questions. Be assured that if there is something we all need to know - or if there is something that potentially increases the risk for you or your child - we will share that information ASAP and act upon it.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the staff team during this time, it is hugely appreciated. Whatever challenges we may face in the next week or so, we feel confident that we will meet these together.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D. Ratcliffe
Executive Head Teacher