



Thursday 19th March 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you have been keeping abreast of the ever-evolving situation regarding coronavirus. Things are moving at a rapid pace for educational establishments and we are doing our very best to keep things as 'normal' as possible so that our children do not become anxious. Thank you for your complete understanding during these uncertain times. We have had to make some very difficult and unpopular decisions over the last few days but you have shown your support with these!

School Closure

In line with Government guidance, after schools shut their gates on Friday afternoon, they will remain closed to pupils until further notice as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus. The exception to this will be children of 'key workers' and our most vulnerable children.

As from Monday 23rd March, you may only send your child to school under the following circumstances:

- Children who are subject to an EHC plan.
- Children whom the school deems as the most vulnerable.
- Children where **both** parents/carers are a member of the defined list of key workers, (we are still awaiting confirmation of this from the government). Thank you to those of you who have already contacted the school believing that you fall in to this category. We will be in touch with those of you who fall in to this category by 12:00 noon tomorrow (Friday 20th March).

Free School Meals

As more and more of our children and families go into self-isolation, we want to do what we can to support you. As such, for those children entitled to a free school meal (Pupil Premium), a packed lunch 'grab bag' can be collected between 11:00-11:30am each day from our mobile classroom. If your household are in self-isolation, please contact the school and we will try to make alternative arrangements.

If your child is in EYFS, year 1 or year 2 and you think you may qualify for a free school meal, but are not currently registered, please contact the school to register (it is not the case where all pupils in this year groups will be entitled to this provision).

Learning Packs

By the end of this week, children will have brought home a ‘learning pack’. These are to be used by those children unable to attend school or who are already in isolation. Each pack will contain enough work for a period of 10 days (2 weeks worth of school work). Further work will be sent out to cover the period of the closure up until schools are open again.

Over the next few days, I will be adding information and links on to our website, which will support you with your child’s education at home.

Please visit our website: www.bellfieldprimary.org.uk and click on the ‘Home Learning’ tab. Select your child’s year group and use the resources on there alongside, and in addition to the packs sent home by teachers.

At this time, staff will still be in school every day so will be available to speak to if you have any worries or need any support with the work.

Parent Consults

Thank you for being very understanding in our decision to cancel face-to-face consultations and for those who have already had telephone consultations with class teachers.

The consults planned in for next week will still go ahead over the telephone (illness permitting). If you are unwell yourself and would rather not be contacted, please ring the school office to cancel your appointment.

Email Addresses

I have asked the office team to gather an email address for all of our families. This will enable myself and the Bellfield team to continue to communicate with you effectively during the school closure period. It also means that we can be certain that information is getting to you. Any emails coming from admin@bellfield.hull.sch.uk will be from the school. You will also be able to email enquiries.bellfield@hcat.org.uk if you need to contact us and are unable to get through via telephone (this will be monitored by a senior leader daily).

Support for families facing financial difficulty

I am fully aware that some of you are very worried about your finances over the next few weeks and months, with some unable to go to work and others being made temporarily redundant as businesses close down. The Government have announced measures to support families who are experiencing hardship and have set out a number of measures. I appreciate that, at the minute, it is very unclear in how to access this support.

I have asked Mrs Puckering to find out as much information as possible about how to apply for, and access support and about all of the agencies that may be able to help during this time.

From Monday, she will be based in the mobile classroom for any parents/carers to drop in for advice (and a cuppa). So that we can prevent large gatherings, we ask that you call the office to inform us of a rough time that you will be attending and we can plan accordingly.

I will continue to provide further updates as and when more information is made available. In the meantime, continue to look after yourself and your family and let us know if we can help in any way.

Kind regards,

Mr S. Mills
Headteacher