



Our Vision

To inspire a love of learning

St Gilbert's Church of England Primary School

Foundry Road Stamford Lincolnshire PE9 2PP

16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

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. I am aware that it is quite an unsettling time for everyone and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our school and local community. In light of this, I am writing to you to let you know what we're doing and some of the procedures we are putting into place.

We'd like to reassure you that we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect all children and staff whilst in school and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and local authority.

What's the current situation?

The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given. Should this change, the school will contact you immediately by email and text.

We have decided to postpone some school events and a separate email will be coming out to you all regarding this.

- All pupils should attend school unless they feel unwell – if your child has either of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
 - a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
 - a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly
- Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.
- You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.
- Testing for Coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home

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If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by phoning the school office to advise us. However, please can I ask that you do not ask the office staff to make the decision for you or ask them to advise you medically. Whilst hugely talented, they are not able to give medical advice. Please follow the current national guidance and use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days
- Use the 111 Coronavirus service <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>
- Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

Further guidance can be found here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

What we're doing to protect and support children

Further to my letter last week, we have talked with all the children about washing their hands and only using tissues once. We will continue to monitor this on a daily basis.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email.
- Please talk to your children about the Coronavirus. Should you feel it appropriate, [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:

- Email and text all parents and carers – please make sure you are able to access your emails
- We will also post the message on our website and Facebook page
- We will do the same when the school is reopened
- We will also be using our website to post work online for all pupils to complete during the school closure period. This work is for all pupils, complimenting their work in school.

*Please note we will **not** be sending work home for pupils unless there is a forced closure. If your child is self-isolated, please continue to read with your child and practice times tables.*

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.

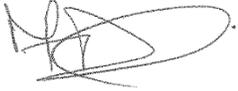
If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this ongoing unprecedented health situation

- [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

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Miss Dicker', written in a cursive style.

Miss Dicker
Headteacher