



Tuesday 17th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

Potential School Closure

Following the Government's direction and guidance that was announced yesterday, we are having to manage increased staff absence as a result of the self-isolation policy. We are going to be entering a period of time in the coming days, and potentially weeks, when we will not have the staffing available to continue a normal school day and as such will have to start a programme of partial school closure.

Updates about which classes will be open each day will be communicated with parents at the earliest opportunity. This information will be shared via:

- teacher2parents messaging service
- email
- school website
- <https://www.hants.gov.uk/education/schoolclosures/>

Contacting the school

As you can imagine our lovely office team are very busy right now. If you need to report that your child will not be attending please leave a message on our answer phone.

Please do not come into the school for non-essential reasons.

In the event of a partial or full closure of school please use the email address below so that we can continue to provide advice and support or if you have any safeguarding concerns. It will be checked daily.

mrisclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk

Self isolation and attendance coding

Some parents have asked what happens to a child's attendance if they self-isolate. A national code of Y is being used for exceptional circumstance and means the absence is authorised.

Home Learning

We have a number of children already absent from school as either they, or their families, are in self-isolation. To enable children to access learning from home we have created a 'Work at home' section on our school website. This can be found under the 'Curriculum' tab or by following the link below:

<http://www.millrythejunior.co.uk/work-at-home/>



This area of the website will be updated this evening and then every Friday evening with work for the following week for the foreseeable future. Later today there will be a further letter to provide all parents with more information about how to access this work together with details for the online learning that we have purchased for children to be able to use if they are not in school. If you do not have access to the internet at home or you do not have tablets or computers at home please email mrisclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk so we can try and arrange for paper copies to be left for you. This is also the email address to use to contact school in the event of a full school closure if we can provide advice and support or if you have any safeguarding concerns. It will be checked daily.

Key workers

If you work within the NHS, Children's Services, teachers, the military, police or in a caring capacity please can you make me aware by contacting me via d.bessant@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk

Changes within school

Until our staffing becomes more stable the following events have been postponed:

- Morning mastery sessions
- Read write inc
- Before and after school clubs run by school staff
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We have also cancelled or postponed the following events:

- 20th March Mothers Day Sale
- 23rd March Year 3 Fishbourne Roman Palace
- 23rd March 5AF and 5JH Rivers Trip
- 27th March Year 4 Art Gallery Trip
- 30th March Year 5 Rivers Trip
- 31st March Easter Disco
- 2nd April Celebration Assembly
- All assemblies
- Spring term sports fixtures

We hope many of these can be re-arranged in the summer term.



Latest guidance from the NHS (16th March 2020):

Following the Government update last night, should any member of your family show any symptoms of Coronavirus then your child should not come into school and neither should you. Symptoms include:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly
- If you have symptoms stay at home for 7 days.
- If you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms
- If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days. If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

The latest guidance from NHS about Covid-19 can be found from the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

with the latest NHS 'Stay at Home' advice being found from this link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

Latest guidance from Gov.uk

Social distancing was introduced by the Government last night. Please follow this link. It talks about social distancing measures for all people but especially for older people and vulnerable adults.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

These are challenging times but I know that the kindness and strength of character that is displayed by our children will be mirrored by all members of the Mill Rythe family over the coming days and weeks.

David Bessant
Headteacher
Mill Rythe Junior School