

The Coastal Federation

Bacton Primary, Mundesley Infant (SRB) and Junior Schools

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'together aspire, together achieve, together we are stronger...'

Tuesday 17th March 2020

COVID-19 update

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continued patience with regards to the national situation. It is not easy, particularly for those who are vulnerable or have members of their families who have underlying health conditions. We are taking every precaution possible in school to ensure we reduce the risk of transmission.

School Update

We understand that many parents are concerned about the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and as a result some of you are self-isolating. As families, you must make the best decision with your children and vulnerable relatives in mind. At a time like this, the Federation will be supportive of families that have taken this very difficult decision - **attendance levels will not be penalised**. We are taking all possible action to reduce the likelihood of transmission within the schools.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, vulnerable groups should now be reducing their contact with others. If you have people living in your household who are elderly, people with underlying health conditions, and pregnant women, you should consider the risks involved with sending your child to school. It is not yet clear how this will impact on the schools but does make the scenario of partial or full closure more likely.

Today, only 22 children were off between the two schools, which genuinely surprised the staff team but testament to the Mundesley Spirit!! However and ironically this makes the adult child ratio more challenging BUT thank you, nevertheless. We have a number of key staff who are self-isolating and therefore will not be returning for 14 days. We are basing the following partial closure on educational rationale, not necessarily where a member of staff is absent.

Mundesley Infant School

The decision has been taken to close Reception (Orangutan) on Wednesday until after the Easter break. This is to ensure the safe supervision of remaining children who will be grouped

differently during this period. The ONLY children in reception who will be allowed to attend are those who have parents who work for the National Health Service or full-time emergency service employees, who cannot get adequate child care. Please let the school know if this is the case.

Mundesley Junior School

Due to two teachers and a number of support staff in self-isolation, it is necessary to consider the closure of classes;

The Year 4 class (Miss Croft) **will be closed from today** until after Easter, as Miss Croft will not be in, alongside a number of support staff across the schools. They will be set work which will be emailed to them.

We are keeping the closure of Year 6 class (Mrs Skinner) **under review** but this is likely to be by the end of the week depending upon staff and pupil numbers. I wanted to give as much warning as possible but the safe supervision of the children is paramount.

Both classes are very prepared for working at home, using the systems set up and identified in the letter sent home yesterday. As with the infant school - those children who have parents who work for the National Health Service or are full-time emergency service employees, who cannot get adequate child care, will be allowed to attend.

We are unable to find suitable supply staff who are prepared to work in schools at the moment.

Myself and Miss Howett will also be supporting the teaching in the schools.

Being 'frank and honest'

Myself, Miss Howett and Kevin Cheetham (Chair of Gobs) have spent the last few days considering lots of different options and scenarios - there is no best option or scenario ! Whilst Government advice is that schools should remain open they also state that the general population should not socialise in large groups or even go out for a meal, yet teachers and support staff are being asked to gather in large groups, with children - who, even with all the best training, do not understand health and hygiene in the same way that adults do and cannot possibly enact social distancing. As a Head I find this to be an invidious situation. I need to ensure that children's education is not interrupted but have dwindling numbers of staff, who I have a duty to protect. This is not a political statement, merely a situation that Headteachers up and down the country are now facing. We absolutely appreciate that keeping children at home creates huge logistical issues regarding childcare and for that I wholeheartedly apologise. However we will do our very best to support those families, who were previously mentioned, who work for the NHS or are full-time members of the emergency services by keeping school open for those children as long as we can.

If you have any questions then please email me, particularly if your child is struggling with accessing the online work set by their teacher.

I will continue to keep you updated in what is a very fluid situation

Yours sincerely,
Simon Wakeman