

Dear Parents,

All in school are continuing to be careful while avoiding panic. Messages about hygiene are being constantly reinforced. Advice from Public Health England and Surrey County Council continues to be our overall guide.

As a member of the Godalming Learning Partnership (GLP), Farncombe is in the privileged position of having a support network of other schools available for guidance, but also the autonomy to make individual school decisions. All the schools in the GLP have taken the decision to focus on keeping 'core teaching and learning' going as long as possible. What we each consider to be 'core' naturally varies from school to school. The following is our situation today:

1. The trips to The Lightbox in Woking have all been cancelled. Parents will appreciate that advice from Public Health England and the prime minister directly, is constantly changing. As recently as yesterday, the aim was for today's trip to go ahead. The Lightbox have been very understanding and we have already had an initial conversation about rearranging the visits for July, possibly to coincide with our 'Farncombe on Sea' event that month. Reception children, who were due to visit today, took the bad news well and were delighted with the alternative plans to create a pretend train in the Sycamore outside learning area and to eat their special packed lunch in our grounds!
2. All elderly volunteers have been asked to 'stand down' this week and next. (We have four lovely ladies who generally come in each week to read with children.) However, our usual parent volunteers are welcome to continue to come in as planned for Mothers' Day Shopping and hearing readers. Any visitors to school are asked to use hand sanitiser.
3. Church Club has been cancelled this week and next. At the time of writing, Japaneasy, Pilates, Singing and DPA are planned to operate as usual.
4. As advised yesterday, tomorrow's Y2 badminton event has been cancelled.
5. The Mothering Sunday singing planned for this coming Sunday at church has been moved to this Friday in the school hall at 2.40pm. At present, James is waiting to hear whether or not church services will take place on Sunday, so rather than wait for the event to be potentially cancelled, it has been modified.
6. Apple Class Assembly (25th) is still planned, but will also be modified with no other children in the hall. This will mean that visiting parents can be well dispersed through the area, rather than in the usual three rows behind the other pupils. If our situation or advice changes, the organisation or date of this event will be reviewed.
7. Any child presenting with a high temperature or a cough will be sent home. The office will contact you if your child develops a persistent cough during the school day. This is a different procedure from normal, as a child with a mild cold or cough, but no temperature would usually be able to carry on with their learning. Once the virus threat has passed we will return to this approach. Current advice on what to do if you suspect your child or anyone in your family has contracted the virus is to self-isolate for a period of time. I recommend that all our school families familiarise

themselves with the latest advice from www.gov.uk (follow link on top right of page). This is updated daily.

At the time of writing, we have no members of staff absent and only a small number of children away from school. Should our situation deteriorate, there is a risk assessment in place for more drastic plans. These may include asking parents to drop pupils in the playground rather than entering the building. If we move to this, parents will be given specific information as to how and where they should drop children. We may also move to year group teaching rather than the current five classes if numbers of pupils and staff fall.

The absolute last resort for us would be to close the school on a temporary basis. If schools are advised to close, pupils would be expected to complete work online. Teachers have already started to consider what would be appropriate for their class and would be ready to pass information to me which I would upload to a new section of our school website. Bearing that in mind, today is a good day to check you have your child's purple mash log-in details and that your printer works, just in case...

Kind Regards,

Andrea