

Shepherds Down School

Shepherds Lane, Compton, WINCHESTER. Hants. SO21 2AJ

Tel: 01962 713445 Fax: 01962 713453 Email: admin@shepherdsdown.hants.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Debby Gooderham



17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I appreciate that this is a very worrying time for everyone and we are trying to do everything we can to make sure we are keeping as safe as possible.

The guidance is changing almost daily and the current advice is that any child or adult who is showing symptoms of a new and continuous cough and/or a high temperature (above 37.8) should stay at home for 14 days. The additional guidance is that if anyone in the household has either of these symptoms then everyone in the household should stay at home for the 14 days too. This applies to both children and staff. I hope you can appreciate the need for this to be followed by everyone and if necessary, we will be sending children or staff home if they display either of these symptoms in school.

I know this is affecting many families and we are in the process of collecting some useful websites and ideas if you need to keep your child occupied at home. We have also written a social story to explain the need to stay at home for some children who are not ill. These ideas and stories will all be available on the school website, and can be printed and sent home on request if you would prefer.

We continue to ensure we are doing everything we can to limit the possibility of any infection. This has included ensuring regular washing of hands by all adults and supporting children to do the same, regular cleaning of frequently used surfaces. In addition, since the latest guidance we have started to restrict non-essential visitors to school such as reviews, some students and volunteers, any visits around schools for prospective parents, training and any external use of the school. We have stopped offsite visits such as trips to the local supermarket, swimming, horse riding and other curricular related outings, until after the Easter holidays; Refunds for any money paid is currently being addressed. I appreciate this might be disappointing for some children but we feel we need to limit what children are exposed to at this time. We will review these restrictions after the Easter holidays.

Currently, the staff absence is being balanced by the children who are absent from school and we continue to review this daily. All staff are being extremely flexible and helping out where needed and having the opportunity to get to know some different children at times! However, many staff, like children will fall into the vulnerable category and this situation might change over the coming weeks as the advice changes. We will continue to review this and keep you informed of any actions we need to take.

Many of the children at school will be more vulnerable and you may have particular concerns relating to their health. If this is the case please contact me so that we can talk through your child's individual health concerns and how best to keep them safe. I want you to be reassured that we will support whatever decision you feel is right for your child at this time.

This is a constantly changing situation and we will try to make sure we keep you informed of all the latest advice and guidance as soon as possible. Please contact me or your child's class teacher if you are worried about any aspect of this.

Regards



Hampshire
County Council



