



# CORSHAM REGIS PRIMARY ACADEMY

King's Avenue

Corsham

Wiltshire

SN13 0EG

Tel No: 01249 712294

Email: [admin@corshamregis.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@corshamregis.wilts.sch.uk)

Web Site: [www.corshamregis.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.corshamregis.wilts.sch.uk)

**Headteacher Mr G Spicer**

Company No 7550425

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing today to share with you extracts of a letter sent to parents and carers of pupils at The Corsham School yesterday evening from Mr Rod Bell, Executive Headteacher of The Corsham School Academy Group, our sponsors. The reason for sharing these with you is because they apply to our pupils in equal measure.

*'Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to all our staff, students and families at this incredibly testing time. Your response over the last few days has been wonderful, with so many offers of support and so much understanding in a time of such worry and rapidly changing circumstance.*

### **Guidance announced today (18/03/20) by the Prime Minister on school closure**

*This evening the Government has announced that on Friday afternoon schools will close until further notice, to all except the children of 'key workers' and 'vulnerable learners'.*

*There is an emerging plan for certain schools to be designated as hubs within their area. If some schools had to close due to reduced staffing, then hub schools would be open for key worker's children. This would concentrate the well staff in one place, enabling the education system to continue to function in some part. We do not yet know whether our school will be designated as a hub.*

*The biggest questions are: "who is a key worker?" and "who is a vulnerable child?" At this time there has been no DfE advice relating to this so I don't have the answers, but tomorrow, in addition to ensuring we provide a safe, caring and orderly environment for our students, we will find out the answers. We will make sense out of this over the coming days and will update you as soon as I have had instructions from the DfE. However, key workers could include all NHS workers and emergency services staff. Once the list is published we will need to hear from all those parents who are on it – but not yet, please. Vulnerable children will include those who have a social worker and those who have EHC (Education Health Care) plans.*

*My first thoughts are that all the planning staff have been doing in preparation for students' home learning in the event of an enforced school closure is well positioned. We plan to offer each year group support and guidance around their learning away from school and we are getting that in place. We will communicate further with you on this in due course.'*

We plan to remain open to all year groups today and Friday but, as a result of increasing staff shortages, this situation may change.

*On Friday afternoon at 3pm, (3:15pm at Regis) as per the announcement, we will follow government instruction to close to all students and will provide further information relating to further DfE advice relating to yesterday's announcement and further support/advice relating to home learning expectations.*

### **Guidance related to social distancing and protecting vulnerable people**

*Our first thoughts are, of course, towards people's health, and particularly those with underlying medical conditions who are at greater risk of infection and being advised to be 'more stringent' in order to reduce transmission.*



The details of the groups at greater risk are identified here:

<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>.

They include those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (i.e. anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
  - chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as [asthma](#), [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\)](#), emphysema or [bronchitis](#)
  - chronic heart disease, such as [heart failure](#)
  - [chronic kidney disease](#)
  - chronic liver disease, such as [hepatitis](#)
  - chronic neurological conditions, such as [Parkinson's disease](#), [motor neurone disease](#), [multiple sclerosis \(MS\)](#), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
  - [diabetes](#)
  - problems with your spleen – for example, [sickle cell](#) disease or if you have had your spleen removed
  - a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as [HIV and AIDS](#), or medicines such as [steroid tablets](#) or [chemotherapy](#)
  - being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
  - those who are pregnant

*We understand that parents will naturally have concerns about schools being open given the general 'social distancing' advice being issued. If parents are particularly concerned about their children mixing with others and increasing the risk of contagion for vulnerable family members, then it is for you as parents to decide on the most appropriate action for your family in these very testing circumstances. **If your child has one of the underlying conditions listed above we ask that you keep them off school to reduce their risks of infection/further complications***

### **Guidance relating to 'self isolation'**

*In terms of your children (or anyone else in the household) showing any possible symptoms, the advice on self-isolation is unchanged from yesterday (please see yesterday's email for details).*

### **What should I do to prevent catching and spreading the virus?**



**Wash hands frequently** with soap and water or use a sanitiser gel



Catch coughs and sneezes with **disposable tissues**



**Throw away used tissues** (then wash hands)



If you don't have a tissue **use your sleeve**



**Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands**



**Avoid close contact with people who are unwell**

*We would ask parents to ensure this 'self isolation' advice is followed, along with reminding your child about the following good hygiene measures to help ensure we attempt to limit the spread of the virus amongst all members of our community.*

### **IMPORTANT - Keeping in touch with School.**

*If you need to contact the school please be aware that the office may be busier than normal due to the high number of phone calls being made. If the line is busy please bear with us and keep trying. We will do our very best to answer all calls and support parents where we can. We will keep you updated as new information becomes available.*

*You must inform the school immediately through our normal absence reporting procedures:*

- *If you or your child has been to an affected area in a Category 1*

Source: NHS



*or 2 country or;*

- *If you or your child has been advised or have self-selected to self-isolate or;*
- *If you believe that you may have been exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19)*



# CORSHAM REGIS PRIMARY ACADEMY

King's Avenue

Corsham

Wiltshire

SN13 0EG

Tel No: 01249 712294

Email: [admin@corshamregis.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@corshamregis.wilts.sch.uk)

Web Site: [www.corshamregis.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.corshamregis.wilts.sch.uk)

**Headteacher Mr G Spicer**

Company No 7550425

*The latest government information is available [here](#)*

*If you have any particular concerns the DfE has also set up a special [helpline](#) which can be used by parents and which offers advice and guidance. The line is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.*

*Phone: 0800 046 8687*

*Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)*

We will continue to keep in regular contact with parents, with updated information on the school website, Seesaw and Facebook.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Gareth Spicer  
Headteacher

