



PARTNERSHIP OF DRONFIELD SCHOOLS (PODS)

Barlow C of E Primary School, Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School (DHFS), Dronfield Infant School, Dronfield Junior School, Gorseybrigg Primary School and Nursery, Holmesdale Infant School, Lenthall Infant and Nursery School, Northfield Junior School, Penny Acres Primary School, St. Andrew's C of E Methodist Primary School, Stonelow Junior School, Unstone St. Mary's Nursery and Infant School, Unstone Junior School, Wigley Primary School, William Levick Primary School

19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Partnership of Dronfield Schools (PODS) Information – Coronavirus

Following our previous letters, we wish to write as the Partnership of Dronfield Schools (PODS) to update you on the latest with the coronavirus, to respond to frequently asked questions and to provide useful links to additional information.

PODS continue to be in daily contact with each other and are working collaboratively to support our community through the current public health issue of the Covid-19 strain of coronavirus. As a cluster of schools, we are following the daily information, advice and guidance that is published by the Government, the Department for Education (DfE), Public Health England (PHE) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC).

All the schools within PODS are working together to ensure that best practice is in place and that all steps are being taken to manage the situation and maintain positive health and wellbeing, as well as to continue to function as schools in the new educational landscape of the moment and provide the highest quality education for your children. It goes without saying that we are in unprecedented times and whole communities are travelling in uncharted waters.

Given below are responses to some frequently asked questions that the schools receive, as well as links to very useful resources and websites that can provide further information. It is important to note that the situation is ever-changing and this change can be swift. As schools we will ensure you are swiftly updated as appropriate. Schools are functioning on a day-to-day basis and have to respond to Government announcements. Therefore it is not possible to even predict what will happen for any longer than the immediate few days ahead, let alone after the Easter break.

The main points to note at this stage are:

- Schools have now closed until further notice from end of school on Friday 20th March. No time period has been established on when they will reopen
- Schools will operate a provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday 23rd March 2020. Each school will communicate separately how this will work in their own setting
- Students who are eligible for the school provision from Monday and have a temperature of 37.8 degrees or higher and/or a new, continuous cough should still be absent from school and self-isolate for 14 days
- Schools will continue to promote the highest standards of personal hygiene of individuals and cleaning regimes each day whilst the students are in school

In the meantime, please follow the advice and guidance that comes from official sources and ensure that you respond to communication directly from the school through their usual means, and avoid the misinformation and disinformation that can be spread via alternative sources.

Yours sincerely

Partnership of Dronfield Schools

How long are schools shut for?

The Government has taken the decision to close schools until further notice. They are constantly monitoring the situation and will give guidance and advice over school reopening at some point in the future. When they do we will inform parents/carers of the plans as soon as possible.

Who are schools opening for?

The Government has identified two groups of students who schools should open for – children of key workers (such as NHS staff, school staff, police and delivery drivers) and vulnerable children (those with an EHCP and who have a social worker). As of writing the definitive list from the Government has not yet been finalised. These students have an entitlement to come into school and be supported. All other students should remain at home.

What will the day be like for those students in school?

Pupils will be supervised whilst completing the work that has been set for them and their peers by their teaching staff. They will have breaks as normal. At all times students will follow exemplary hygiene practice and demonstrate good social distancing etiquette. Uniform will be optional.

What should students still at home do?

Students at home should continue to complete the tasks that are being set by teachers. School staff are constantly reviewing the impact and effectiveness of this, whilst also exploring different methods and approaches to setting the work. It is possible that future practice may evolve if school closures carry on for a significant period of time.

It is important that students maintain good learning habits and routines during this time. For example, they should follow a normal routine of getting up and preparing for a school day, looking to work during normal school hours. Getting exercise, if they are well, is also important as it will help them sleep and give social interaction. Social distancing guidelines need still to be followed.

What do I do if I have concerns about something?

Individual schools have excellent information and guidance on their website which can signpost you to various organisations and websites. Schools also have their own support mechanisms as well as email addresses to send concerns to.

What is happening with free school meals?

The Government is looking to implement a national response to this, possibly through the use of vouchers, and when it is clarified we will communicate this to parents/carers. If there are immediate concerns then parents/carers should contact the schools for support

Where can I get up-to-date national and local information from?

There are a number of sources that are proving very effective at providing the latest information. A selection of these are given below:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/health-protection/disease-control/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care/nhs-111/>