



17 March 2020

Dear parents, carers and members of St Gabriel's community,

Coronavirus COVID-19 Update

Thank you for the positive response to our communication on Friday, we really appreciate your fantastic support of our school community. Clearly this is a rapidly evolving situation and yesterday the Government issued further advice to us all on how to respond as we seek to delay the spread of the virus. I am writing to update you about how we as a school are responding to the latest Government guidance.

School remains open

The first thing to make you aware of is that the School will remain open. As I mentioned on Friday, you will probably be aware that schools in many countries around the world are closing due to the virus. However, as of yesterday's briefing, the Government's position is that it is still *not the right time* to take this measure. Therefore, our school will remain open and lessons will continue. There are however, **a number of considerations** in light of the latest guidance.

Self-Isolation

As of yesterday, **anyone** who has **any member of their household** presenting with the possible symptoms of Coronavirus (a "new, continuous" cough or high temperature of 37.8C/100F) is advised to self-isolate (stay at home) for **fourteen days**. Public Health England **has released new guidance** for those staying at home because they or someone in their household have symptoms of the virus. If your child is affected by this guidance, please let us know in the usual way (ringing the school office on the first day of absence) and confirm whether they themselves are displaying symptoms **or** they are in isolation due a member of their house displaying symptoms. **Pupils need to stay at home if a member of**

their family is displaying symptoms even if they are not. These absences will be authorised.

Social Distancing

The Government have advised that all unnecessary social contact and travel should stop - this advice is particularly important for people with certain health conditions, people over the age of 70 and pregnant women. This advice will result in some changes to our planned activities and operation. Please see ***Events and Activities*** below.

Staff Absence

As is the case in many schools, we are operating with a reduction in our staff. We are providing cover as best we can to ensure that we have a **sufficient number of staff to operate safely**. *This may result in changes to our normal provision at short notice.* If there are more absences than the school can cope with to fulfil its activities safely, then the school will have to close.

School Closure

Should a school closure be necessary, we will notify you via email and text and a message will be put on the school website. It is in our contingency plan that, if the school closes, children should continue to **learn at home** and staff will work **remotely**. In the first instance, children will be encouraged to make extra use of our online learning platforms and reading at home. **(NB children who are home during a period of isolation should make use of these and other learning opportunities listed below).**

Teachers will be in touch with further work via email throughout a period of closure. The school will be contactable via email at office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org. Please make sure we have your up to date email address and mobile numbers to ensure vital messages and work can be sent through effectively. We will keep you updated via these communication channels throughout a period of closure.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

We must be aware at this time of the potential impact on our children's mental health and wellbeing. We do not want to cause alarm, worry or undue stress for them. It is more important than ever that together we should:

- Do our best not to sensationalise or overdramatise this issue
- Offer reassurance
- Stick to known facts
- Not pass our own concerns or stresses to our children
- Demonstrate understanding and empathy for those directly affected
- Provide opportunities for them to learn and connect with their family during a period of isolation

Hygiene

The message around good hygiene practice is just as important as ever. Pupils are actively supervised to wash their hands regularly and thoroughly. They have been shown how to catch a cough, or sneeze in a tissue or the crook of their arm, to bin tissues and to wash hands afterwards.

School Events and Activities

Upcoming school events and activities affected by the current situation:

- All Extra-Curricular Clubs are running as normal except:
 - Easter Craft club- **cancelled**.
 - EC theatre Arts- **cancelled on Thurs 19th, other dates to be confirmed**.
- There will be **no 'wild school' for classes until w/b 30th March**.
- 25th March - 26th March - **Parent meetings – cancelled**.
Parents will receive their child's spring term report. Phone appointments with the class teacher can be arranged on request.
- 26th March - **Braille Class, Easter Experience, St. John's Church – cancelled**
- 27th March - **Reception/Year 1 trip to Warwick Castle – postponed**
We will look to rearrange this visit in the summer term.
- 03rd April - **End of Term Celebration Assembly – cancelled**
Celebration assemblies will not be open to parents until further notice.

Further Advice for Parents

This is a fast moving situation. For parents wishing to keep up-to-date with the latest situation, the following links may be helpful:

- www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public
- The Government Coronavirus Action Plan; a guide to what you can expect across the UK - www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

We continue to pray for the health and protection of people around the world, for peace in this situation, for those in leadership to receive wisdom and for each of us to have the strength to cope with the challenges ahead. With grateful thanks for your continued support and understanding,

Yours sincerely



Mr. A. Taylor

Headteacher

Learning opportunities at home:

Oliver Jeffers is sharing **stories** online from 6pm via Instagram / Facebook each night

Use <https://www.onceuponapicture.co.uk/> or <http://www.pobble365.com/> to find an interesting image. What do you think is happening? Can you describe what is happening? Can you **write a story** about it?

Alphablocks games and some episodes can be found on:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks> with a full range of episodes viewed on YouTube via: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_qs3c0ehDvZkbiEbOj6Drg

Reading books can be read for free online via: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

'Mr Thorne does **phonics**' has lots of **grammar** and phonics short episodes at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7sW4j8p7k9D_qRRMUsGqyw

Phonics play has some free online learning phonics and grammar games:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> The Obb and Bob games are particularly useful for year 1

Spelling <https://www.spellingshed.com/>

Reading Realm activities - The website has announced it will make learning packs available for free: <https://thereadingrealm.co.uk/>

CBeebies **bedtime stories** are found on iPlayer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b00jdlm2/cbeebies-bedtime-stories>

You can listen to **stories** read online using: <https://www.storylineonline.net/>

This site has **books to read and activities to complete** related to them:

<https://thebookwhisper2.wixsite.com/mysite/post/free-resources>

Numberblocks episodes can be accessed on BBC iPlayer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b08bzfnh/numberblocks>.

Numberblocks activities and some episodes can be accessed via

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

Whiterose **maths** have announced they may **release parent packs or support videos**. If they do, these can be found using: <https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/>

'Hit the button' game that can be used to practise **maths facts**:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Master the Curriculum have stated that they would make **maths resources** available for free should schools be shut down across the country: <https://masterthecurriculum.co.uk/>

Primary Stars Education have produced a home learning **maths pack**:

<https://primarystarseducation.co.uk/>

Maths shed (online and APP): <https://www.mathshed.com/>

Times Table Rockstars

Online **programming** skills: <https://blockly.games/>

Practice **computer programming skills** using: <https://www.scratchjr.org/>

Natural world - Find out information and take quizzes using:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>.

Lots of age appropriate **Science videos** can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids?fbclid=IwAR0yACr7fKjpwKRm7gdUpvme-Cx--WrYqKRWf-XJ5rY7sGes1oouXcafaYE&app=desktop>

Some of these activities could be completed in the **garden**:

<https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/?fbclid=IwAR13E8FK3cRITbEMP2JkxGbsHD8Zoyso3G6jVE2Fm-c-uL9-Qr8BNVQRuk8>

Possible **research** site:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/?fbclid=IwAR0nbvBBEH2vHCHwJre6ASTzjuYFlcsi-71sJnH4MPQ9GpTagG7beYEPdzw>

The **British Museum**, London, is offering a virtual tour through the museum:

<https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>

Things to do organised by year group: <https://playhooray.co.uk/blogs/news/play-for-all-ages>

Top Marks has lots of online **games and learning activities**: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

ICT games has lots of online **games and learning activities**: <https://www.ictgames.com/>

BBC bitesize contains lots of different curriculum activities and games:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z3g4d2p>

Pawprint badges activities for children to complete:

<https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR3cp-Qa8maImRkkgutDEDzB22Pq5hj9Zn5tB7u5JBGdZLIVQx7ZZudINU>

Listen to the **CBeebies radio**: https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio?fbclid=IwAR0-TMpvqJs92IrsUxEWmjCjzObkoaN7VoCFUJL0qx1BHx2_z-8ko1VKmj4

There are lots of **activities and games** here:

<https://toytheater.com/?fbclid=IwAR0OOzaXDRXfNLpgvDyHb5P7l8mFcgitmTsKHekKgCnb-PBLSbzZA7yuG6k>

Go Noodle have some **fun movement videos** for children: <https://www.gonoodle.com/>

Joe Wicks has **active videos** aimed at school children:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyCLOpd4VxBuxu3sLztrvWFehzv-LnR2c&fbclid=IwAR1J4CmCmFiSX666JMjDIE1H7SJ82tGZN2utZv0hH4UFKzHmlk2yextGPwU>