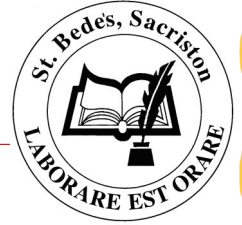


Weekly Dates Letter



Week Commencing 16th March 2020 Spring Term Week 24

This week the news has been full of information regarding COVID-19. We'd like to reassure you that at school we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government. We receive daily updates from the Department for Education that are informed by Public Health England. Please be reassured that we act upon these.

The **school remains open and functions as normal.**

The DfE guidance today is as follows:

- Young people and children should stay at home for 7 days if they are unwell with a **new, continuous cough or a high temperature** to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise, they should attend education or work as normal
- If young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home

If your child is unwell, please report this as normal by telephoning the office.

We will no longer attend **any events outside of school** or hold events that invite others into our environment with close proximity of our children. This means with immediate effect we will not hold/attend:

Mother's Day Lunch, Swimming, Infant Agility, Football, Parents' Consultations, Dance Festival, Easter Journey, Lenten Bags, Family Mass and Easter Fayre.

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

We are doing all we can to maintain the health of your children, you and your extended families as well as maintaining the health of all our school staff and their families. We are attempting to do this without scaremongering the children or leading them to worry unduly.

- Door handles are being washed more frequently
- Enforcing increased hand-washing – at least 4 times per day
- Lessons or assemblies for pupils about hygiene and handwashing
- Separate infant and junior school assemblies and Collective Worship
- Only pre-arranged/essential visitors to school. Anyone entering school premises will be asked to sanitise their hands.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus if you feel this is helpful. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.

- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- Ensure that lunch boxes and water bottles are thoroughly cleaned, inside and out, daily
- Follow us on Twitter so that we can share with you pictorial information, videos and links easier than through texts alone.

Twitter: @StBedeSacriston

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we'll:

Alert parents to closure via:

- Text
- A Twitter post @StBedesSacriston
- Confirmation on the school website
- Confirmation on the Local Authority school closures webpage www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures

In the event of closure we will:

Send home a resource pack to help you and your child continue their education at home. These packs will require your child to have access to:

A writing pencil

Ruler

Rubber

Pencil Sharpener

Colouring pencils/Felt tips

Scissors

Glue stick (possibly)

IT WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE IF YOU COULD LET US KNOW NOW WHICH ITEMS (IF ANY) YOUR CHILD WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS TO

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. **There are currently no plans to close.**

Please see the NHS website if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use NHS 111 online if at all possible before calling 111.

Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support and patience. We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.