



CHELLASTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Head teacher – Mr Alex Smythe

Together we are **stepping to success**. Together we are **working to achieve our best**

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Coronavirus update

Dear Parents

Thank you for your on-going patience and support regarding the school's position surrounding the coronavirus pandemic. The situation, globally, brings difficult decisions for many, many people but I'm sure that we are all in agreement that everybody's health is the top priority.

Sadly, yesterday, we decided to **postpone the evening performances of Aladdin** and to **cancel the parents' evenings due to take place this Thursday and next Thursday**. We took both decisions because we felt they were the right ones in the circumstances. We have spoken with the cast of Aladdin this afternoon to try to explain the decision and to reassure the children that we will do all we can to put on the performances in the future. They performed in school to half of the school yesterday and half today; we are also hoping that will be able to perform to a small audience of other staff later in the week. The staff would like me to wholeheartedly thank the children and parents for their support in the build up to the performances.

With regard to parents' evening, both dates have been cancelled and it is extremely unlikely that they will be rearranged this term. We will ensure that we do all we can to get parents' evenings up and running in the summer term.

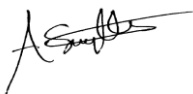
To confirm:

- We do not have any confirmed cases of COVID19/Coronavirus amongst our children but some families have chosen to keep their children off school who are symptomatic, these families are unlikely to be diagnosed with COVID19/Coronavirus under current guidelines which state that the NHS are only testing those who become seriously ill. If you have heard that someone has COVID19/Coronavirus it is more than likely that what they are actually doing is self-isolating; you should ask whether the diagnosis has been confirmed by medical professionals.
- Current guidelines say that nobody needs to self-isolate just because a family member is doing this, and we are currently accepting non-symptomatic children into school.
- Anyone who has a confirmed case of COVID19/Coronavirus within their immediate family; children, parents living in the same household **MUST** inform school. I am required to report this to Public Health England (PHE) who would make the decision whether to close our school as a result. Likewise, if a member of staff is a confirmed case the same would happen and you would be informed so that protective measures can be taken. PHE would contact me should they become aware of a case within our community.
- At the point of writing this I have no information about school closures so we remain open and focused on learning and safety.

- In the event of a school closure due to coronavirus, each year group will provide work for the children to complete at home. There will be some themed work (linked to the topic being covered in the year group), daily maths work, daily English work and generic activities such as Times Tables Rock Stars.
- This **work will be shared with you and the children on the school website** on the year group pages at <http://www.cjs.derby.sch.uk/classes>. Please **do not** feel that you need to buy 'Home Education resources' for this eventuality.
- Please bear with us if your child is currently off school. It is not really feasible for us to provide work for children out of school as well as catering for those coming into school, but we are looking for a manageable solution. Please keep checking the website for details.
- If you do not have access to the internet, please let us know so that we can provide written work for your child(ren). We would want to limit our photocopying though; especially as there may be not definitive answer about how long a closure would last.
- **Visits** currently arranged (such as the upcoming Space Centre visit) will go ahead as planned. Should advice from the government, local authority or the venues change, we will contact the families of children involved. We feel that our children will benefit greatly from the visits.
- **Swimming lessons** for Year 4 at Repton Pool have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.
- I know that some families disagree with the Government's decision to keep schools open at this stage and have made the decision for themselves to keep their children at home; this is currently a small number of families. Anyone making this decision will have their child's absence recorded as an **authorised absence**. Likewise, some families have members with underlying health conditions and are understandably protecting those family members. **We must all do what is right for our families.**

Thank you for your continued support. I will keep you informed of any updates.

Yours faithfully



Mr Alex Smythe
Head teacher