

St Bernadette's RC Primary School

Edward Avenue, Stenhousemuir FK5 4XR

Telephone: 01324 503400

Headteacher: Mrs Marianne Savage



Falkirk Council
Children's Services

Date: 17.3.20

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to give you an update on the current situation with regard to Corona Virus (Covid-19). We are all managing and dealing with a situation which is changing daily and we appreciate your continued support in these challenging times.

As a school we are following the advice of our Local Authority and the Scottish Government which is based on the best evidence and advice available to them.

In Scotland and the rest of the UK the response involves keeping schools open as long as possible.

With this in mind it is really important that all staff, pupils and parents follow the advice issued:

Medical Advice - if anyone in your household develops a new persistent cough or fever then they should not come to school – or will be sent home if symptoms arise when at school. They should then undertake a household isolation situation:

- The person with symptoms should stay at home for 7 days.
- Others in the same household should stay at home for 14 days whether they have symptoms or not.
- If others develop symptoms they should stay at home for 7 days – even if that leads to a stay at home for more than 14 days in total.

If pupils have an underlying health condition (one that would lead them to being offered the Flu vaccination) the advice is that they should stay at home and self-isolate to prevent contact with the virus.

In school we continue to promote hand washing. Arrangements are in place to ensure that paper towels, toilet roll and soap dispensers are stocked adequately. Regular checks of toilets throughout the day are being made by school staff to safeguard hygiene standards and maintain resources at an acceptable level.

Please do not phone the school with medical queries – we cannot answer these and direct you to the NHS website: <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/>

Staffing - as you can imagine all of the above has already led to a high number of staff absence and we are working hard to ensure our school remains open. This means we may have to combine classes, increase class numbers beyond usual limits and make sure of all available staff including Local Authority staff. Moving forward this means your child may not have their own class teacher.

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School Events - as a result of the advice from Scottish Government about non-essential gatherings all school events, concerts, parents' evenings and after school clubs are cancelled from today. We will notify as soon as possible if and when these events can be rescheduled.

Residentials – At the moment there has been no cancellation of our P7 residential. In the event that it is cancelled, Falkirk Council is communicating with providers to put an agreement in place that cancellation will not mean a loss of money for families. We will update you on this as soon as we have the agreement confirmed.

Learning and Teaching – staff are currently preparing learning and teaching resources for work within school but if schools are to close we will ensure an element of continuity in learning and teaching using digital platforms such as Glow. We will be working hard to ensure that if schools are to close:

- Websites are up to date with digital home learning plans and any appropriate links for our school
- Children have their GLOW usernames and know how to access GLOW
- Young people are aware of how to access other digital learning platforms used in school
- Learning packs are available for the families in your establishments who do not have access to digital learning platforms

We thank you again in anticipation of your continued support with working together to get through this very uncertain period.

Yours sincerely,



Marianne Savage,
Headteacher.