



23/3/20

Update from School

Dear Parents/Carers

Events with Coronavirus continue to move at speed. Thank you for working with us to this point and appreciating the complexity and severity of the situation. School opened as planned today with a skeleton staff to cater for those students who needed to come in.

At this time, it is really important that parents exercise a duty of care and responsibility to others at the school, including other children, school staff and the families of these two groups. Having key workers' children together in school presents a major issue in terms of the potential spread of the virus to all of the families of both the children and the staff.

Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, made it very clear on Friday that you should only send your child to school from today if you absolutely had to, because your work is critical to the COVID-19 response. This suggests that if a member of your household does not work as a key worker, your child should be at home with them. Primary schools are very different to secondary schools; the vast majority of children at Friesland are old enough to stay at home. May I urge parents to consider the potential risks of increasing the size of the gathering in school - this needs to be balanced against allowing older students to remain at home.

At the same time, however, it is really important that we all recognise and show our appreciation for the excellent work of our parents who are tackling this virus as front-line workers. You are placing yourselves at an increased risk; thank you so much on behalf of us all and to those in other roles critical to the COVID-19 response we also express our thanks.

For those students who are coming into school now currently, school opens at 8.25am and finishes at 2.40pm. Please do not send your child into school outside these times. Students and staff will be observing the guidance relating to social distancing throughout the day. Please ensure your child has their own equipment – they will not be allowed to share pens etc. We will supervise students washing their hands regularly throughout the day. Lunch provided in school is a 'grab and go' bag which students will eat back in their designated room, observing social distancing guidelines.

Students today had access to a hard drive computer for which they will be the sole user across time. They have been working on their google classroom tasks at different times during the day. No school uniform is required from tomorrow and if students can wear trainers we will endeavour to offer some safe outdoor activities such as table tennis.

With regards to the school office, can I make a plea that you only telephone into school during the school day now if it is an absolute emergency. The phone rang constantly today with a whole range of queries. Remember that the school is essentially now closed, with only a skeleton office staff as well

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as teaching staff. If you have a safeguarding query, use the resources available on our website at <http://www.frieslandschool.com/parent-information/safeguarding/> or e-mail in to Safeguarding@friesland.derbyshire.sch.uk. Our trained DSLs monitor this account throughout the day. If you have any other urgent queries Mr Patterson (Deputy Headteacher) is happy to pick these up in the first instance at cpatterson@friesland.derbyshire.sch.uk. He will either reply or pass the information on to the relevant member of staff to respond.

With regards to Free School Meals, we are still trying to resolve this situation as the Government is yet to make a further announcement since an initial statement of its intentions. For the time being, we will continue to operate a 'grab and go' offer of food to any Free School Meals student who is able to come up to school between 11.30am and 12.00pm. If your child wants one, can I ask that you please e-mail the catering Manager, Mrs Hall, jhall@friesland.derbyshire.sch.uk by 9.30am each day to help us with preparation. Can we please request that parents do not come on to site with students to collect the meals as we are trying to restrict the number of people on site in line with Government guidelines. As soon as possible this week, we aim to move to a voucher system for all Free School meals students. The intention will be to post these home but like all schools, we are trying to work out the detail of how this might operate.

Finally, for now, I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your support and co-operation whilst we have attempted to address the ever-changing situation at present. We will continue to communicate regularly with you all across time and do so in a variety of ways. Please do keep checking the school website – www.frieslandschool.com – for updates. Most importantly, please do follow all of the Government guidelines during the current crisis and make sure you keep safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Monk - Headteacher

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