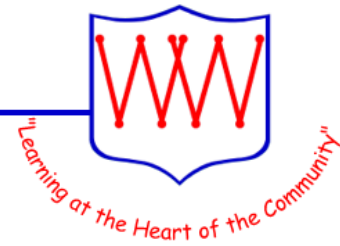


# Woolsery Primary School

Serving the villages of Woolsery, Clovelly and Bucks

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16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on the school's position with Covid-19 (Coronavirus) as we were unable to get a Newsletter out to you at the end of last week.

As you can appreciate, this is a fast-moving situation nationally and there are lots of different, often conflicting, messages out there.

At the present time, our instructions from the Department for Education is to **continue school life as normal** with the exception of school trips to foreign countries which have been suspended by the Foreign Office (sadly we don't have any of those...!). Therefore, until we hear otherwise we will continue to be open every day as normal. The Government's position remains that this is the best course of action.

Should our staff need to self-isolate, we will need to change class groupings but will make every effort to keep our school routines in place as far as possible.

The only circumstances under which I will close the school is if I am instructed to by Public Health England or the Government, or if we have insufficient staff to maintain safety on the site. At the present time, the latter seems very unlikely.

As parents, we know you have difficult decisions to make in the interests of your family and your own personal circumstances. We are not able to offer advice on how you should handle the situation, but only refer you to Public Health England and the NHS 111 website (not the phone line). You must do what is right for you and your family.

I have been asked by many parents about where self-isolation leaves families with school attendance. Again, we have received no specific guidance on this but the Secretary of State has said that *no-one will be penalised for attendance issues linked to self-isolation*. From this, I can only assume official advice is that your child's school attendance level should not be a factor in your decision making if you are thinking of isolating your family. Please remember, though, that if you *do* self-isolate, it should be for seven full days as a minimum. All absences for self-isolation **will be authorised** by the school. For safeguarding reasons, if you are keeping your children away from school, you must continue to inform us every day as we would normally expect.

As a school we are preparing to offer some learning away from the site for those who are self-isolating (or if the school is told to close in the future). Your child is able to log into their school Chromebook Account to access learning set by a teacher and the Google Classroom system works on all platforms including tablets and mobile phones so we are hopeful that the vast majority of children will still be able to access school work should the need arise. If you don't think your child would be able to access this method of learning, it's important that you let us know so we can try to find a solution for you.



To log into their Google Classroom Account, your child should go to **classroom.google.com** and log in using their username and password which they use on our Chromebooks. The only difference is that after their username they need to add "@woolsery.devon.sch.uk" – so "Joe Bloggs'" username would change from "jbloggs" to "jbloggs@woolsery.devon.sch.uk". There is also a link on the school blog site to Google Classroom – see the Links tab on the menu.

As you may be aware, our main school website is down at the moment. This is because we are in the process of moving all of our content onto our Blog site which works better across different platforms. However, the domain changes in the background have not happened as we'd expected. For the present time, you should use the address **woolseryprimaryschool.edublogs.org** for all website-related things, rather than our usual woolser.y.devon.sch.uk site. We are hoping this will be resolved very soon.

In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing patience and resilience. We know these are a set of circumstances none of us has experience of but please be assured we will do our very best to support you and your family over the coming weeks and months. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or call the school.

With very best wishes,

Matt Cole  
*Headteacher*