



ELTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EXPECT, ENDEAVOUR, EXCEED

FRIENDSHIP

TRUST

JUSTICE

ENDURANCE

COMPASSION

KOINONIA

Sunday 22nd March 2020

Dear Parents,

Following the latest government guidance, schools are to remain open for children of keyworker staff. **As mentioned in previous communications, it is not compulsory for children of key workers to attend school; this should be considered only as a last resort** - please see the attached flow chart. School should be used as emergency childcare provision only, and if a child is able to stay at home with adequate care, they must stay at home. The objective of social distancing and the Prime Minister's appeal for people to stay at home is to reduce the spread of transmission. Therefore, Elton will be 'open' but we want to keep the number of children and staff to a minimum to reduce their exposure to the virus. Whilst the scientific advice thus far is that schools are not dangerous places and that children are least at risk; it is the people with whom the parents/carers have been in contact with that could pose the risk to those at school. The message is clear therefore, staying at home within a controlled environment is the safest option. I have attached a pictogram which demonstrates the effect of not following social distancing measures. There is a social and moral responsibility for everyone in this current climate to do the right thing - we need to be part of a collective national effort.

As Headteacher, Mrs Arnold has a responsibility to staff, visitors and children under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and the school's Health and Safety Policy reflects this. This is a huge responsibility at this time, especially as she is putting her own health, her staff's health, and by consequence, the health of everyone in their families, at risk. With the ever-changing complexities of Covid-19, there are two salient points that the governing body must consider. These are:

- Putting policies, arrangements and procedures in place to promote effective health and safety management;
- Taking a risk-based approach to school activities to identify sensible, realistic and effective control measures which facilitate the safe delivery of business aims and objectives

Infection control

Like the common cold and flu viruses, Covid-19 is spread by:

- Infected people passing the virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing, or even talking within a close distance.
- Direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand, and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- Touching objects (eg door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands. Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

We have been limiting the risk of catching or spreading Covid-19 at school by following all government and local authority advice, however, we now need to go further. Although the staff who continue to work at school will do their best to create a caring and supportive atmosphere, it is inevitable that with extra measures in place, Elton will not feel like the school the children are used to, and it is important that the children understand why there is a need to do things differently and why the staff they know are behaving in a different way.

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Therefore, from Monday 23rd March 2020:

- We will only be accepting children of keyworkers where they have no alternative childcare arrangements. If one parent can work from home, no matter how inconvenient, then they must do so. I will be contacting the parents of all children expected in school to confirm that you genuinely need your child to be in school on each of the days you have requested. Remember that your child is safer at home. You and the rest of your family are safer if your child is at home. Parents/carers will not be permitted into the building. A member of staff will open the door to your child.
- You will be asked to sign a disclaimer that you have not knowingly been in contact with anyone showing symptoms of Covid-19 and that your child is not showing symptoms of Covid-19.
- Social distancing at school will be 'physical distancing'. All teachers and children will be asked to remain two metres apart wherever possible. This will be challenging for all.
- The climbing equipment on the school field will be prohibited at this time to limit the spread of Covid-19.
- Cleaning will take place during the school day of all touch points, chairs and desks. It will appear to be quite a clinical and a sterile environment.
- Parents will be contacted if their child repeatedly refuses to adhere to the hygiene and physical distancing measures put in place.

If your child becomes unwell or develops symptoms of Covid-19, they will be moved to the Year 2 classroom and kept in isolation until you are able to collect them. Symptoms of Covid-19 can include:

Dry cough	Sore throat
Fever	Tiredness
Difficulty breathing	Loss of sense of smell and/or taste

We will regularly update information regarding Covid-19, by checking the latest guidance from Public Health England and the Local Authority and will inform parents and staff of any changes to our emergency plans.

Again, these are unprecedented times and all the governing body of Elton thank you for your commitment to help protect all the Elton community, children and staff by taking your own personal responsibility seriously. Our prayers are for you and your loved ones, for a safe passage through this difficult time.



Rebecca Gonzaga
Vice-Chair of Governors