



Bapchild & Tonge CE (Aided) Primary School

Headteacher: Mr C Kelly

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23rd November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Further to my letter over the weekend when we had 3 positive cases across our community, we now have been notified of a further 4 confirmed cases. This very sudden and rapidly changing situation is obviously very concerning to all of us and necessitates a quick decision rather than delaying.

The safety of our students, staff and the families in our community is our paramount concern. Based on the current picture of increasing numbers of cases, and having consulted the local authority we are taking the very difficult decision to shut the school to students and staff and move learning to blended online learning.

The school will **close immediately** as a precaution to provide a break in transmission. Please arrange to collect your child from the normal drop-off/collection points:

Year R - Front of school/Year R door

Year 1 - KS2 Playground

Year 2 - KS1 Playground

Year 3 - KS2 Playground

Year 4 - KS2 Playground

This decision has been made primarily for two reasons; firstly due to the increasing positive cases but secondly due to the staffing pressures we are facing. We now have an ever increasing number of staff who have to isolate due to either being a positive case, self-isolation as a contact or in their family or due to track and trace notifications. In our judgement, it is not possible to operate the school safely with this number of absent staff.

We have taken the decision to take a 14 day 'fire break' to get us to a position that all those that may have been contacts will serve a 14 day isolation period. This means the school will re-open on **Monday 7th December 2020**. Those that have previously been contacted as a 'contact' of a positive case must continue to remain indoors until the end of their 14 day period. This is outlined below. Please monitor the website for reminders about returning to school.

We recognise that this is disruptive to your home and work and we are extremely sorry for the impact this will have but we do feel that this current position will only get worse if we try to remain open. We have considered numerous options to stay open safely or provide key worker provision but this compromises safety.



If someone in your household begins to present with symptoms it is very important you get them tested as soon as possible, please remember that the household must isolate until results are known and if they are positive the whole household must then isolate. Please inform us if you get a positive test result, please do so by emailing office@bapchild.kent.sch.uk.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Children's lessons will be via blended learning on Google Classroom. We will send out further details about how to log on and teachers will be in contact.

Thank you for your support in what has been an exceptionally challenging week for the whole school community. We extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery to all those affected in our community. They are all in our thoughts.

Yours sincerely

C Kelly

Mr C Kelly
Headteacher