



Victoria Primary School & Nursery Unit

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Principal : Mr C. Fulton BA Hons (QTS)

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parent

As you will be aware, the Government have decided that schools in the UK should remain open despite schools throughout Europe already being closed. Their rationale for keeping schools open is that it allows those in the health service and emergency services to continue working. I believe this to be a very valid reason, however, last night the government announced that if anyone in your household has a high temperature and/or new continuous cough then everyone in your household must stay at home for 14 days. This has only served to undermine all that the Government have tried to achieve through keeping schools open. Parents in the health service and emergency services can no longer attend work if they are required to undertake household isolation.

Parents are beginning to vote with their feet. Yesterday we had 80 pupils absent and today 100 pupils absent.

Household isolation will also have a huge impact on the number of staff in school. We currently have 3 teachers absent from school today and already know of a total of 4 teachers, 2 classrooms assistants and 2 mid-day supervisors who will not return to school for 14 days or who are now deemed as vulnerable and are encouraged to work from home.

As a group of local schools, we have forwarded a letter to DENI and EA outlining our concerns.

I would encourage you to follow the government advice in terms of household isolation. If any member of your family exhibits any of the symptoms, then undertake household isolation for 14 days. If you are unsure I would err on the side of caution.

Please keep in touch with us via our SLIDO communication tool if required. Go to www.sli.do using the code VictoriaFAQ.

Once again, thank you to the entire school community for being so supportive and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C. Fulton
Principal