

# Barnes Farm Junior School

Henniker Gate, Chelmer Village,

Essex CM2 6QH

Executive Head Teacher: Mr R McTaggart

Head of School: Mr R McIntosh

Tel: 01245 467973

Fax: 01245 461947

F-mail [admin@barnesfarm-jun.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@barnesfarm-jun.essex.sch.uk)

Website: [www.barnesfarmjuniors.co.uk](http://www.barnesfarmjuniors.co.uk)



17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are living through unprecedented times and the anxieties felt by everyone in our community are real, understandable and wide-ranging. Attached to this email is some guidance from an Educational Psychologist on how to best help our children manage during these unsettling times.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support towards your child's education. My team at Barnes Farm Junior school has been thankful for your general response to the continually updating news and for the responsible decisions each and every family is having to make. Please continue to let us know (preferably via Studybugs) if your child is unwell, or is now affected by the need for a family to self-isolate. We will work with you to be on hand to offer guidance and support.

Here are a number of updated actions by the school to ensure that we maintain our core business of 'inspiring and educating' your children:

- *Improved facilities and protocols have been established for caring for children displaying Covid-19 symptoms whilst at school (in line with guidance for non-healthcare settings)*
- *Enhanced and more regular cleaning of specific areas within the school and throughout the school day*
- *Handwashing by pupils is continuing to be fully embedded throughout the school day*
- *Children who are self-isolating (but not ill) are being supported by being sent generic packs of learning activities to undertake if possible*
- *We are preparing for how to best support continued and more personalised learning at home if we need to close and will share this guidance accordingly*
- *This week will be the last for teacher-run clubs. Paid clubs run by external coaches will continue for the final two weeks as planned. I want my teaching staff to be focussing on their core business and staying as refreshed and healthy as possible.*

Finally - please follow the latest NHS [guidance](#):

## Stay at home if you have coronavirus symptoms

Stay at home if you have either:

- a high temperature - you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough - this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.



## How long to stay at home

- if you have symptoms, stay at home for 7 days
- if you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms

If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.

If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

## Staying in Touch



Our preferred method of reporting absences is via the free StudyBugs app. It also has access to NHS approved support and guidance too. 70% of parents are using it but we will be sending all those not currently using the app a reminder so please follow those instructions.



We strongly encourage you to use the free eschools app . This allows us to notify you instantly at no cost in the event of an emergency. You can also use the wider functionality on it too. Go to itunes App Store or [Google Play](#) store to download it. When prompted enter the following log-in details:

**barnes-farm-junior.eschools.co.uk** (*insert the type in bold*)

I will continue to update you when fresh or significant information is received.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross McTaggart".

Ross McTaggart  
Executive Headteacher

