



The Willows Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. S. A. Barnett
Victoria Road, Kirkham, PR4 2BT
Telephone & Fax: 01772 684371
www.willows.lancs.sch.uk

18th March 2020

Staffing Update in light of the Coronavirus

Dear Parents,

We felt now would be an appropriate time to share with you an update regarding our current staffing levels and the plan of actions we will follow if and when more members of staff need to self-isolate.

At present, due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we are experiencing the following staffing shortages:

- One support assistant has had to self-isolate due to her children displaying symptoms.
- One support assistant and one teacher, who have underlying health conditions, are **not displaying any symptoms** but given the risks to their health, will be working from home.
- On the evening of Thursday 12th March, one teacher placed herself into self-isolation – following current guidance, she will not return to work until after 26th March.

We also have one teacher who is off work due to health problems that are **not related** to the Coronavirus outbreak. Mrs. Barnett is also off work as she recovers from a minor operation – completely **unrelated** to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Up until today, we have been able to manage these staffing shortages using supply teachers and other members of staff from within school. However, we are now at a point where further measures will need to be implemented to allow us to continue providing high quality education to our children.

On Thursday morning, our Year 1 children will be split between Reception and Year 2 – these children will be split between the classes based on their date of birth. The younger children will go to Reception, the older children to Year 2. Please be assured there will be no bias as to the children's ability, simply their current age.

As we continue through the coming days and weeks, should more members of staff be absent from work, we will apply the same model to other classes.

At the point at which the need to combine three classes becomes apparent, we will take the decision to close specific year groups rather than the whole school. In discussion with the Governing Body, we will close classes in the following order.

Key Stage 1:

1. Reception
2. Year 1
3. Year 2

Key Stage 2:

1. Year 3
2. Year 4
3. Year 5
4. Year 6





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We are fully aware that in the event that we have to close classes, it will cause significant disruption to the lives of our families. We do however have to consider the safety of our children and take steps to ensure this remains our paramount focus.

In an effort to ensure the continued education of our children, work booklets will be sent home today. There will be an additional paper letter sent out with these giving you more details.

Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office or use the 'Contact Staff' form available on the app.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. R. Wylde
Deputy Headteacher

