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Dear parents,

Happy St Patrick's Day! Although the current situation is far from festive, I am beginning today's update with a thank you for all the messages of support and help that we have received from parents. The children who are in school are being absolutely brilliant, and we very much miss those who are off. These are extraordinary times.

School Closure

In the absence of an update from the DfE today, my initial message to you is a repeat of yesterday's:

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce would be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to education or children's social care settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

Absence

We have high absence for children again today. If you are concerned that your child is unwell, particularly if they have a high temperatures or dry coughs call NHS111 and follow their advice. The



self-isolation period is now 14 days. Inform the school office about absence the usual way. Please do not send your child back into school if they appear to have recovered. The isolation period is 14 days from the onset of the cough or fever. Once you have reported the absence once, there is no need to call in every day as the absence will be on our records. The self-isolation period of 14 days includes siblings, unfortunately. Information suggests that the most effective relief from symptoms is paracetamol based medicine and drinking plenty of water, but always follow advice given by doctors or NHS111. We would also ask that parents are specific about the nature of the child's illness if you are leaving a message, this will avoid the office staff needing to call large numbers of parents.

School work at home

If you require passwords for DB Primary and our other online platforms, your first port of call is the school website 'Childrens Zone.' This has instructions about how to log on. If your child is currently absent, send a message to the class teacher via the school office and the passwords will be emailed to you as soon as possible. Please be patient as this is quite a task!

Minimising the Risk

In addition to the measures explained yesterday, many parents will have noted that we operated a 'soft start' this morning with the children going straight to their classrooms. This will continue for the foreseeable future. In classrooms we have stopped 'carpet time' and our assembly times are going to be completely changed so low numbers of children will be in the hall at one time. Lunch service has been lengthened to ensure more space in the dining room.

Staffing

We have a number of staff who have been told to self-isolate. However, at the present time we are able to operate classes as normal. This may need to change as the situation develops, but we will do all we can to rearrange internally to avoid full or partial closure.

Cancelled Events

We have taken the decision to cancel all after school clubs run by the school. Low numbers have attended and there is uncertainty about available staff. This includes netball, athletics and football. External providers such as Sports Skills, Drama and French will, I am sure, communicate with parents separately.

On Friday 13 March, I wrote to parents and detailed the status of our upcoming events. The list is included again (below) for your reference:

The following events will either be cancelled or postponed, or alternative arrangements put in place:

<i>Tues 17 March</i>	<i>5G to St Ignatius</i>	<i>cancelled (or postponed if possible)</i>
	<i>Football at Grammar</i>	<i>St George's team withdrawn</i>
<i>Weds 18 March</i>	<i>Planetarium</i>	<i>postponed until summer term</i>
	<i>Year 4 to Tate Modern</i>	<i>cancelled</i>
<i>Thurs 19 March</i>	<i>3M class assembly</i>	<i>postponed until summer term</i>
<i>Fri 20 March</i>	<i>Choir concert</i>	<i>withdrawn</i>
<i>Mon 23 March</i>	<i>parent consultations</i>	<i>cancelled/ postponed</i>
	<i>5S to St Ignatius</i>	<i>cancelled (or postponed if possible)</i>
<i>Tuesday 24 March</i>	<i>Enfield Sings concert</i>	<i>cancelled (or postponed if possible)</i>
	<i>Nat West workshops (year 5)</i>	<i>cancelled</i>
<i>Weds 25 March</i>	<i>parent consultations</i>	<i>cancelled/ postponed</i>
	<i>Dance festival</i>	<i>withdrawn</i>
	<i>Nat West workshops (year 5)</i>	<i>cancelled</i>
<i>Thurs 26 March</i>	<i>y6 working life workshops</i>	<i>cancelled</i>
	<i>Songsack concert year 1</i>	<i>cancelled (or postponed if possible)</i>
	<i>Chocolate bingo</i>	<i>cancelled (or postponed if possible)</i>
<i>Sat 28 March</i>	<i>SEND quiz</i>	<i>cancelled (or postponed if possible)</i>
<i>Mon 30 March</i>	<i>anti-bullying workshops</i>	<i>cancelled</i>
	<i>Year 2 maths workshop</i>	<i>withdrawn</i>
	<i>HYMB parents meeting</i>	<i>postponed</i>
<i>Thurs 2 April</i>	<i>Roll Back the Stone</i>	<i>postponed until summer term</i>

Our priority is to maintain a safe environment for the staff and pupils and we will do everything possible to achieve that. The children, in these times of uncertainty and anxiety, are being a credit to themselves and their families! We should be really proud of being part of a special St George's community.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P O'Rourke
Headteacher