

# SINGLETON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mrs Theresa Smyth

Newsletter 25: 18/03/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will have seen in the news, schools are closing on Friday for most children. I appreciate that in some ways this may lead to more questions for you as families. I am briefed daily by West Sussex County Council and decisions for strategic planning will be guided by them. I attach the most recent communication.

As you may be aware, I am not currently in school. As a member of my family is unwell, I am following Government advice to self-isolate for 14 days. I remain in contact with school via email and phone throughout each day. I am very lucky to have a supportive team and fantastic Governors at Singleton, and know the school is being well managed on a day to day basis.

## **NEXT 2 DAYS**

If over the next 2 days your child becomes unwell in school with any symptoms which are a concern:

- We will contact you immediately
- We will isolate your child – we will use the library – they would be with an adult and made to feel safe and calm and be shown compassion and kindness
- When you come to the office we will then come and open the side gate and ask you to collect from the library door.

## **SWIMMING CANCELLED**

### **HOME LEARNING PACKS coming home today**

Packs for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have been created for each child in school. We also have a list of websites which we know are of good quality and useful for learning. It is worth remembering that where possible children will need a mix of learning and time away from screens, internet access may come under strain as more people are isolated at home and children should have supervision whilst using any learning online.

**Year 2 and 6 SATs will not take place**, however the materials you are receiving will ensure you child is practising key skills – they will be useful over the coming weeks.

**IF YOU CAN** help anyone who is already self-isolating by picking up a pack and popping it through their letter box, please pop into the office as soon as possible: Thank you.

### **Mrs Turner**

As you know, Mrs Turner is due to retire shortly after Easter. In normal circumstances we would be making secret plans, creating gifts and preparing for a wonderful 'Farewell for Mrs Turner', as a whole school community. We will put those plans on hold and prepare some fabulous ideas ready to put into action when we all return together.

On behalf of all the children, staff and families of Singleton school, I would like to thank Mrs Turner for her dedication, hard work and commitment to the education, nurture and growth of so many children who will have been in her class over the years. Her passion for supporting and teaching children to read has touched so many lives, both in Singleton and through training for teachers in the county.

We all wish Mrs Turner the very best and when in steadier and calmer waters, that she has a fulfilling, wonderful and probably very busy retirement.

Lots of Love and  from ALL the Singleton community. (Mrs Turner is a fan of pigs!)

**Over the coming weeks** it will be important to monitor your children's feelings and emotions. Initially many children may see this time as an adventure and exciting. However, for some this will be a difficult time. Children may worry about you, grandparents, siblings and sometimes about matters we can't imagine. Many children, especially from smaller families may miss contact with their friends. I know you will find ways of minimising the feelings of isolation at this time, but I have included some number/websites which may help.

**If your child/ren shows any signs of being overwhelmed or anxious**, this is a useful website: <http://www.youngminds.org.uk/> and they have phone line for parents: 0808 802 5544

### **Support for you too**

It can be difficult to manage feelings when we feel we have little or no control. I encourage you to look out for each other, stay connected, message one another and offer help where you can. If you are feeling overwhelmed or need to talk, these are great websites or phone: Samaritans: 116 123

<http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/>      <http://www.thecalmzone.net/>      <http://www.mind.org.uk/>

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>      <http://www.nopanic.org.uk/>      <http://www.rethink.org/>

<http://www.refuge.org.uk/> (domestic violence)

These are challenging and unprecedented times – but we are blessed to be a community which is strong, caring and rooted by God's love for us all.

If you have any worries or concerns, please email the office or [head@singleton.school](mailto:head@singleton.school) or speak to a member of staff and I shall endeavour to get back to you within that day.

Take great care, I'm sending a virtual 'smile' to you all and my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Theresa Smyth



Wishing ALL our mums, Nannas, Grandmas, Aunties 'A Happy Mothering Sunday'