



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

Headteacher: Mr M Warren

Hoe Lane

Ware, Herts

SG12 9NX

Tel: 01920 462210

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13th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware of the latest guidance given yesterday by the government regarding COVID-19.

The government have now confirmed that the UK will enter the DELAY phase of its COVID-19 strategy, and this has implications for schools.

New health advice has been issued. Anyone with a persistent cough or a high temperature of 37.8 degrees and above should now self-isolate for seven days. If this applies to your child, then please use the normal school procedures by emailing attendance@presdales.herts.sch.uk letting us know of the absence and reasons why. If your child is unwell, please err on the side of caution and keep them off school.

The government has advised against all overseas educational trips for children under 18. All educational establishments and travel companies are currently seeking further clarification on how far into the future this applies, and also who is covering the cost of cancelling the trip. Our upcoming trip to Andalucía will more than likely not take place, but we will confirm with those parents shortly. We await further information on other planned trips.

The uncertainty of how quickly COVID-19 will spread and whether or not schools will close before Easter is making it challenging to plan ahead. Therefore, we have taken the decision to postpone a number of upcoming events. We appreciate that some will agree, and some may disagree with this decision, but we have to do what we feel is best for our school community.

- **Wednesday 25th March:** Year 8 Parents' consultation evening will be **postponed**. A new date will be arranged and communicated to parents in due course
- **Monday 30th March:** Year 7 Parents' consultation evening will be **postponed**. A new date will be arranged and communicated to parents in due course
- **Tuesday 31st March:** The Year 10 geography trip to Stratford will be **postponed**. A new date will be arranged and communicated to parents in due course. The school will cover the cancellation costs.
- **Thursday 23rd April:** Take your daughter to work day will be **postponed**. A new date will be arranged and communicated to parents in due course.

The following will go ahead as planned

- **Saturday 28th to Sunday 29th March:** Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice
- **Tuesday 14th – Saturday 18th April:** Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition

Decisions about all other trips will be made over the next few days.



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School closure

If the school is asked to close then we will communicate this to parents through InTouch, the school website and the everbridge system. I would ask that you sign up to this if you have not already done so. Parents need to register at <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489/#/signup> or via our website. If you are experiencing any problems with the system or have forgotten your details, please contact the Everbridge Service Desk on 0800-098-8273 or support@everbridge.com.

If we do close before the Easter holidays, then staff will set work via edulink for all year groups, and we would expect students to complete this work as though it is a normal day. We are currently checking with all students about their access to a PC or laptop at home and access to the Internet, and will support those students where these resources are not available. Teachers of Year 11 and 13 students have been asked to teach as much content as they can over the next few weeks in case we do close. Most GCSE and A Level subjects are close to completing their courses. We will send out more information on what students are expected to do if we are asked to close.

It is important that we get the balance right between hysteria and an acknowledgement of the seriousness of the situation we all find ourselves in. These are uncertain times and advice is changing daily. I will keep you updated as and when new information is passed to us.

Regards

Matthew Warren
Headteacher