

17th March 2020



**SIR JAMES SMITH'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: CORONA-VIRUS UPDATE 17th March 2020

The past few days have been unsettling for us all and with advice changing daily the North Cornwall Learning Trust (NCLT) have decided to do a regular update and would be grateful if you would share the contents with other parents. Please bear with us in these difficult times, we are all doing our utmost to provide a safe school and continuity for our students. At the time of writing Sir James Smith's school is:

- Following Government policy and remaining open until instructed to close.
- Continuing to follow Government guidance on precautions to help prevent the spread of the virus.
- Preparing for possible school closure to ensure that students are ready for home-learning.
- Giving consideration as to how best to prepare for public exams and completion of exam coursework.
- Cancelling/postponing any school trip or visit planned between now and the end of April.
- Cancelling/postponing any school production, or meetings involving multiple visitors to the school until after Easter.
- Cancelling all parents' evenings – if reports are due they will be sent home to all pupils and parents.
- Cancelling all after-school clubs.
- Monitoring closely the health and welfare of all staff and have in place measures which will allow us to keep our school operating as normally as possible.

The NCLT urge that all parents follow government guidelines regarding self-isolation and social distancing for vulnerable children. In common with many employers, those guidelines have impacted on staffing levels in school. At the time of writing two members of teaching staff and a member of the support staff are self-isolating, a third teacher and two further members of support staff are required to self-isolate as they are within identified 'vulnerable groups'. Currently Sir James Smith's is able to maintain the normal timetable for all children. Should staffing fall below the levels required to keep the school open and run safely Sir James Smith's may have to move to partial closure or even whole-school closure. In the event of partial closure, older pupils preparing for public examinations will take priority. Parents will be contacted if we get to that stage.

For those pupils already needing to self-isolate there is comprehensive information attached and available on the school's website regarding activities and resources for each subject area. In the event of a school closure pupils will be able to communicate with their teachers via Show My Homework. If you need your log in details for SMHW please contact the school, or alternatively go to the school website www.sirjamesmiths.cornwall.sch.uk – Show My Homework (at the top right of the website) – enter your email address and if you have forgotten your password you can request a password reset.

As you will appreciate, this is a dynamic and rapidly changing situation and the school will do everything possible to keep you informed of developments in good time. Working together we will do everything possible to support your children and thank you in advance for your support and forbearance.

Yours faithfully

**Kristien Carrington
Headteacher**

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