



Head Teacher
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Dear Parent / Carer

It has been widely reported that the UK and Scottish Governments have moved to the 'delay phase' in response to the spread of Coronavirus. Therefore, I am writing to inform you of our current school contingency plans as well as what we will do if the Scottish Government takes the decision of a blanket school closure.

I should stress that at the time of writing no decision has been made to close schools and establishments and we continue to operate as normal with some precautionary measures, until we are told otherwise.

However, I thought it would be useful and reassuring for Parents / Carers to know we have plans in place to make sure our pupils have every opportunity to continue their education regardless of the circumstances we may face.

Currently, in order to support health advice within school, we are doing the following:

- Hygiene awareness with all yeargroups.
- A continued focus on hand washing.
- Following NHS guidance :
 - Wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel, regularly throughout the day.
 - Catch your cough or sneeze in a tissue, bin it, and wash your hands.
 - Cough / sneeze into your sleeve if no tissue.

You can help at home by reinforcing these messages with your child/ren. This is good practice and will benefit pupils regardless of the current situation.

Our plans for possible school closures are detailed below:

- Appropriate learning resources will be available on the school website under the 'Departments' menu. These will range from: exercises and worked examples, class notes, past papers and links to Microsoft Teams (a communication and collaboration platform). Hard copies of materials can be provided on request.
- All pupils have a Glow account which can be used for email, collaboration and access to Microsoft Teams.
- We will use a number of methods of communication with families during a closure including: updating our school website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/in/schswebsite/>, email, text, communication app and Twitter [@stcolumba](https://twitter.com/stcolumba)
- A contact page has been set-up on our school website to submit any queries in the event of a school closure. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/in/schswebsite/contact-us-during-school-closure/>
- Dr John Paul Fitzpatrick, of TeachMindset, will be providing 1:1 and group coaching on Mindset; resilience for senior pupils online to access via their phones, tablets and devices. Details will be sent direct to pupils via their Glow email.

Yours faithfully,

Nicola Devine
Head Teacher

