

HT Briefing

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING 5

A very sad day here as we say 'cheerio' to our pupils for the session. Particularly so for our P7's and their families; some have had a very long relationship with this school and I very much regret not having the opportunity to say 'goodbye' properly. What I can say is a huge thank you to these families for all their support over the years and for having such trust in Annick.

North Ayrshire Council has contacted all schools today to explain its approach regarding free-school meals, looking after our most vulnerable children and catering for children of 'key-workers':

- Free school meals will be delivered to the homes of children qualifying for these.
- Most vulnerable pupils will be identified by the school and accommodated in a 'primary-hub' in our locality (yet to be decided by NAC).
- Children of 'key workers' will be identified by NAC through their on-line survey (sent to parents today) and accommodated in the same 'primary-hub' as above.

North Ayrshire Council have informed Education Staff that they have not to report for work on Monday, but have asked for volunteers who are able to look after your children in the 'primary-hub'. I have asked Teaching Staff, Early Years Practitioners, Classroom Assistants and Office Staff to consider their positions and to volunteer if they are able. I have received a positive response from all.

Today we have had five members of staff self-isolating and 121 pupils absent from school.

Looking forward, we have managed to put in place a great deal of what will be necessary to help you engage in your child(ren)'s education over the next weeks and months. Most of the tasks will be consolidating previous work with some added challenge built-in and I would encourage you most strongly to engage in the weekly and daily activities provided and referenced.

You will see the added guidance that I referred to yesterday posted on our web-page. This together with Twitter and the GLOW pages should give us open lines of communication as we move forward. You may also find a member of our management team giving you a wee telephone call over the piece; this is just a check-in to see all is well and for us to get a feel about how things are going in general for our learning community. Also, I'll be writing a wee 'Briefing' to you all twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday?) just to keep you up to date with any news coming my way.

I genuinely never thought I'd see a day like this as we close our wee school in March. I know it is upsetting for many but I would say that your children have been a credit to you all; they have been robust and resilient in the face of a very new and unexpected challenge. I wish you all well and hope that everyone keeps well over the coming months.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Stuart Brown

Headteacher