



# Bomere & the XI Towns Federation

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Julie Ball, NPQH, PGCE, PG(Dip)M



St John the Baptist CE Primary School & Nursery  
Church Street  
Ruyton XI Towns  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY4 1LA  
Tel: 01939 260445  
Email: [admin@ruyton.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ruyton.shropshire.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.ruytonschool.org.uk](http://www.ruytonschool.org.uk)

Bomere Heath CE Primary School  
The Crescent  
Bomere Heath  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY4 3PQ  
Tel: 01939 290359  
Email: [admin@bomereheath.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bomereheath.shropshire.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.bomereheath.shropshire.sch.uk](http://www.bomereheath.shropshire.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents/Carers

## **Potential Disruption Due to Staff Absence**

Following current government guidance, we are in an unprecedented situation whereby we are going to need to adapt to staff absence over the coming weeks. Should we have a confirmed case of COVID 19 amongst staff or pupils, we will advise you as soon as we have authorisation for this from the Department for Health. In the meantime, I would ask that rumours about staff or pupils are minimised as there are numerous reasons why people may be absent.

We are expecting to experience staff absences and will do everything to ensure that staff self-isolate in a timely manner should this be required; we will cover their absence with the least disruption possible. If teaching or teaching assistant staff become affected, we will use supply cover until this is no longer possible. We will consider joining classes if pupil numbers and staffing can be utilised safely. Should all this fail then we may consider closing.

There may be last minute changes to clubs etc but again, we will try to keep these running as long as possible as we know some parents rely on these as childcare too.

We are able to take advice from Shropshire Public Health, Shropshire Council, and the Department for Education should we need further guidance following any announcements from the government and will utilise this to ensure we are keeping children as safe as possible.

We take the health of the children and our staff very seriously and therefore have taken all advised precautionary measures. You may have already heard of the 'Stay at Home' guidance announced by Prime Minister. These include:

- Stay at home if you have either:

- a high temperature (37.8 degrees Celsius or higher)
- a new continuous dry cough (lasting 3-4 hours or more)
- do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
- you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days
- Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

We understand that you may have concerns but we want to reassure you and reiterate that we continue to follow all the guidance and advice currently available. Parents are encouraged to follow the guidance issued by the government and to self-isolate themselves or their children in line with our earlier letters. Updates are available on the gov.uk website.

We continue to request that you update us as to the reasons if you are keeping your child at home as we need to register the children with an appropriate code every day. We are not, however, able to advise parents whether to self-isolate or not – the only guidance we have is that which is shared on the government website.

Julie Ball

Executive Headteacher