Celtic Cross Education
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18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are making parents aware that, if you or your child have underlying health conditions and you have chosen for them not to attend school this will be marked as an authorised absence. Please find below more information on underlying health conditions.

We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures. We have included the gov.uk full list of underlying conditions to make parents aware of these, although lots of them do not apply to school children, but may apply to other family members.

This group includes those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (i.e. anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
- chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as **asthma**, **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**, emphysema or **bronchitis**
- chronic heart disease, such as **heart failure**
- **chronic kidney disease**
- chronic liver disease, such as **hepatitis**
- chronic neurological conditions, such as **Parkinson's disease**, **motor neurone disease**, **multiple sclerosis (MS)**, a learning disability or cerebral palsy
- **diabetes**
- problems with your spleen – for example, **sickle cell** disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as **HIV and AIDS**, or medicines such as **steroid tablets** or **chemotherapy**
- being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant

For more information please see the website below.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults

In addition, if you are self-isolating as a family this will also be marked as an authorised absence; please inform the school office as to your circumstances so this can be recorded correctly. We realise these are testing times for us all and hope that you and your families are keeping well.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Renshaw
Chief Executive Officer