



PRIMARY (FOUNDATION) SCHOOL

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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Headteacher: Justin Burt

Deputy Headteacher: Jo Wratten

Dear Parents

### Sickness / diarrhoea at Friars

A significant minority of children have been off school today with sickness and/or diarrhoea. We have been in touch with Southwark children's services health and safety department and the South London Health Protection Team (they have sent a further letter which is also on our website). The cause of this infection is unknown but it is highly unlikely to be food poisoning at the school. The majority of children affected in actual fact brought their own packed lunches to the sports day at GMH park yesterday.

We have made the difficult decision to close the school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 as a means of preventing further spread of the infection. However we plan to open as normal on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

As per the additional letter from the South London Health Protection Team, children or adults that have been affected must stay off school 48 hours after the symptoms have come to an end. This means that if your child has fully recovered from the virus by Friday night and they show no symptoms over the weekend they will be allowed back at school on Monday. However if the symptoms persist over the weekend, please do not send your child to school on Monday.

We have put further steps in place to prevent the spread of infection not only in the school but outside:

- Whilst the school is cleaned daily and thoroughly by a team of cleaning contractors we will be putting in additional cleaning throughout the day.
- Communal water fountains will not be used until further notice. **We strongly recommend you send your child to school with their own water bottles.** We will provide water for children who do not bring their own bottle in.
- Fruit will be handed out separately to children at the end of each day and not in a communal bowl.
- We will continue to insist on children showing good hand hygiene after using the bathroom, before eating and at the end of break times.

We apologise for the inconvenience that the closure may cause parents but the decision has been made to protect the health of any children and adults in contact with the school.

Yours sincerely,

J Burt.

