

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience, co-operation and understanding during this difficult period of uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus.

Yesterday, the Government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- If you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started
- If you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Should your children or anyone in your household develop the symptoms above then please do not send your child to school. If your child develops these symptoms in school then we will contact you to collect them immediately and the above guidance should be followed.

Please do not worry about attendance rates at this time. It is more important to safeguard the health of your family and our community. If a child's absence is linked to COVID-19, please inform the office so the correct absence code can be recorded.



'Nurture Inspire Discover Create'

Travel

If you have not already done so, please advise the school if you or your child/ren or a close family contact has travelled abroad in the last four weeks.

Additional measures

In school we are taking additional measures to ensure the safety of everyone. This includes

- concentrated cleaning of hard surfaces (door handles, taps, tables etc)
- each class accessing handwashing facilities. We request that you get your child/ren to wash their hands before coming into school in the morning.
- all visitors will be asked to wash hands on entering the school
- consideration of vulnerable pupils and staff due to underlying health issues (if you are concerned about your child's underlying health issues please contact the office or the headteacher to discuss)
- reducing high contact situations such as assemblies etc.

Potential School Closure

At this time school closure is not advised. The current medical and scientific advice is for schools and other educational establishments to stay open. If this changes and the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Adviser say closing schools, colleges, and early years settings is in the best interests of children and teachers the Department will take that step.

With that in mind and in the forthcoming weeks, the advice to self-isolate may affect staffing levels in school. We are planning for all eventualities and will endeavour to stay open as long as staffing levels allow us to provide a safe environment for the children. This may result in classes being merged for periods of time, support in classrooms being changed or supply staff covering classes.

However, should the school have to close, staff are preparing activities for learning which can be carried out at home. Communication via text and the school website will play an important role from Monday 23rd March. Should there be full closure or your child be off school but well enough to undertake school work, please visit your child's class page to access home learning.

A full list of links and guidance can be found on our website. We will keep you updated regarding our plans to manage the changing situation. Many thanks for your patience and understanding,

Yours sincerely

Matthew Lee
Headteacher

Clare Allen
Chair of Governors



'Nurture Inspire Discover Create'