



## Re. Coronavirus update 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parent/carer,

Further to my previous communications, I wanted to provide you with an update on the current situation and how the school is responding to this.

### The situation:

The guidance changed considerably yesterday, and we have responded to this. This includes:

- Cancelling all school events considering the guidance to avoid large gatherings.
- Restricting external visitors to our school sites to essential visitors only.
- Restricting the staff who travel between sites to working at their home school only.
- Enabling home working for all staff who are in the at-risk group in line with the guidance that states that these groups should now minimise social contact: there are 14 staff for whom this is the case in our school. We have made adjustments to our timetable and groups to ensure that we can continue to provide a safe and satisfactory provision.
- Contacting all parents of at-risk pupils to discuss the measures we need to take, if you believe your child is in one of the at-risk groups (see the links below) and we have not contacted you then please contact the school directly.
- Liaising with our facilities, IT and lettings providers to monitor their actions and ensure our school can continue to run safely.

Yesterday the guidance changed to state that whole families should self-isolate for fourteen days if one member of the family presents with symptoms, the key symptoms are:

- A high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- A new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly.

The new guidance outlines that:

- Individuals will still be asked to self-isolate for 7 days from the onset of symptoms.
- Other individuals in the same household will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the moment that the first individual experiences symptoms.
- If another member of the household develops symptoms, they must not leave the home for 7 days from when the symptoms started.

This guidance is also impacting staffing levels in the school, we currently have 17 self-isolating and we expect this to increase in the coming days.

The current guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>



<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

**What we have done:**

As you know, we have been and will continue to regularly monitor and follow the advice from Public Health England and the NHS. We have heightened our own hygiene measures in school, including enhanced cleaning and briefed students on the guidance to help prevent the spread of all germs and we would appreciate your continued support in reinforcing this at home also. We have a dedicated medical isolation room should anyone develop symptoms while in school so we can help minimise contact with others. Of course, this room will be deep cleaned if it is required to be used.

We have also put plans in place so we are ready to respond should the situation change for the worse, including making schoolwork available online. We have activated our online materials for those in isolation at home and a detailed letter was distributed to all pupils yesterday. Any student absent, the letter was placed in the post and will arrive shortly. If you have not seen this letter please do ask your child/children and if it still does not materialise then please call the school and we can email you a copy. Please note that providing materials as well as planning for lessons still going on in school, places a considerable strain on the teachers and so we will endeavour to do as much as we can in the circumstances.

We will continue to update you via the school website.

We hope you join us in wishing those who are unwell a speedy recovery. While we fully appreciate this is a worrying time, please rest assured that we are doing all we can to safeguard the good health of our students and our wider school community. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us to achieve this.

Yours faithfully,

Darren Turner

Executive Principal

