



17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As said in my letter yesterday we are really keen to make sure we keep you all informed re the measures we are putting in place in school to minimise the impact of coronavirus on our school community.

The information we now have from the Department of Education and Public Health England advises that if a member of your household is showing signs of the virus – namely a temperature and a cough – that you keep your child off school for at least 7 days.

We already have a number of families in this situation and thank you for your unquestionable support in trying to help keep the rest of the school fit and well. As this is an exceptional time, the absence will be coded as such. We do of course understand that some of our children have underlying health conditions and if you feel you would like to take additional precautions this will also be coded as self-isolation.

In terms of actions in school we have cancelled all trips and visits including swimming, riding, skills zone, college visits etc. If there was a cost involved in these trips we will refund the monies to parents as soon as we can.

All events involving parents have been cancelled or postponed including this week's Celebration assemblies. Any EHCP reviews due to be held between now and Easter will also be re-scheduled.

We are limiting visitors to school and only those professionals who need to be in school to support us or our pupils will be coming in.

We are also taking extra precautions across the day as follows;

- All children and staff are washing their hands/ use gel on arriving at school, before eating and before leaving at the end of the day.
- Door handles are being sanitised around the school at least 3 times per day.
- Touch spots including key boards are being wiped using sterile wet wipes before use
- Children and staff showing any sign of being unwell are being sent straight home that come to school with a cough and cold
- Assemblies have been cancelled
- Gloves are, as always, available in medical room for staff to use when supporting pupils with personal care
- Our cleaning team are deep cleaning everyday toilets, washing facilities and touch spots e.g. door handles

However, as I am sure you will understand we are already finding that we have a significant number of staff off school. Today we have 20 staff not in school. These are not all because of the current situation but whatever the reason staffing classes is getting tricky!

At the moment the advice is that schools do stay open. However we are also working on a contingency

plan of how we can support pupils if we simply do not have enough staff to teach and support classes. This may include partial closure. Obviously any decision like this will not be taken lightly.

In the meantime as part of our preparation in case schools do close we are attaching a letter that explains how we will work with you to provide on-going learning activities for your child.

Again just to reiterate it is vitally important that we have up-to-date contact details that will enable us to contact you during the school day. We do not know how much notice we will have if we are instructed to close the school.

As always if you have any queries then please ring or email the school office.

Best wishes



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