

17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will be aware, the Government and Public Health England have announced that we are in the 'Delay' stage with regards to the coronavirus. The advice from yesterday's press conference is that all household members will need to self-isolate for 14 days if any member of the family has

- high temperature
- a NEW, continuous cough

If you do display those symptoms, seek advice on <https://nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>. The website is updated regularly, and gives advice as to what to do if you have to self-isolate. It is important that you **do not**:

- attend your doctors
- phone 111, unless the symptoms deteriorate or have not improved after 7 days.

We thank all parents for supporting us by following this advice.

In school, we are striving to minimise the risk of infection to pupils by taking the following measures for the following two weeks (this is continually being reviewed):

- all pupils that display symptoms will be kept separate in school until they are collected by parents/carers (and advised to self-isolate for 14 days).
- ensuring pupils wash their hands properly during the day.
- limiting all external visitors during the day unless essential (e.g. safeguarding). This will include sports coaches. Stay and play sessions will be cancelled until further notice.
- We have cancelled performances; this term the year 3 play has been postponed.
- All sports events have been cancelled.
- We have postponed all trips this term.
- after school clubs will continue as parents have paid for these; **however parents have the right to withdraw their children if they wish, but they will not be reimbursed. N.B football club has been cancelled by the FA. We have cancelled all clubs after Easter.**
- Lunchtimes are being staggered to reduce too many children in one place at the same time
- Whole school assemblies are being cancelled; assemblies will take place in smaller groups instead to avoid mass gatherings of pupils.
- We are extending the times that child can come in to school each morning by opening at 8.45 and closing doors at 9am. Can parents keep their children by them until the doors open in order to avoid a crowd by the doors?
- Attendance awards have been cancelled for the rest of this year due to these exceptional circumstances.

We will continue to review our procedures in line with guidance from the Government, and we will keep you fully informed when guidance changes. There are currently no plans to shut schools; this would be only happen according to government/ Public Health England advice. During this time some work will be set for children using a year group newsletter which can be found on the classes pages of the website. If we have enough notice we will also send a work pack home. The exception to this is if teachers themselves are too unwell to set work. Children will also be expected to read, practise spellings and to continue to practise maths such as their times tables.

We may have to consider partial closure of school if the following happens:-

- High number of staff absence – teaching and non-teaching
- A suspected outbreak in a particular year group, if advised by Public Health England or the local authority.

If we do have a large proportion of staff absence, we will do our utmost to ensure children have as much continuity as possible. If we can not ensure the safety of pupils, then we will have to review the situation and possible full or partial closure will follow.

Our focus is to keep the children safe, happy and reassured in school. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

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Mrs S Hewitt
Head Teacher