



16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will know by now that the Government has moved to escalate the COVID-19 outbreak to the Delay stage, and Guidance for Educational Settings has been updated.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19#section-13>

There is also new advice that anyone with a new persistent cough, or a high temperature, will now have to self-isolate and stay at home for seven days. This applies to staff and to pupils. It is very important therefore that you consider this before your child sets off for school, as any child displaying symptoms, however mild, will be required to go home and expected to remain off school for seven calendar days, or fourteen days if COVID-19 is diagnosed. Please ensure that we have the most recent contact details for you by email and phone, and please be prepared to take calls at any time during the school day. In order to protect all of our very vulnerable pupils I would ask that you come immediately to support us by taking your unwell child home.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

In the meantime, please rest assured that we are following all Government guidance, and doing everything that we can to minimise the risk. For example:

- Staff are supervising pupils handwashing using appropriate hand wash
- Pupils have been taught how to wash their hands using NHS guidelines, and are being supported when they sneeze or dribble
- Cleaning routines have been made more rigorous using recommended sterilising fluids, with attention paid to specific items such as switches, handles and surfaces
- Regular (and confidential) contact can be made with the school office or myself. However please note we will only direct you to government websites, we cannot offer medical advice
- Governors are being kept up to date by myself and staff are receiving daily briefings

Although we are open currently, it is very possible that schools may be asked to close over the coming weeks. With this potentially being part of the plan, it will be worth discussing this within your households and starting to think about contingency plans. We will continue to liaise with families should this situation occur, and are considering how we will provide work or activities for pupils to complete in the event of a closure.

In the meantime, I would be grateful if you would support our community by notifying school if any family members are unwell, and by keeping children with symptoms, however mild, away from the school. Finally, like us, please follow the advice of medical professionals; the latest updates are available here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Best wishes,

Sarah

Sarah Edwards
Head Teacher