



13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus Update

I am sure that you are all aware of the recent Covid-19 outbreak which has now been declared a pandemic. We want to reassure you that as a school we are taking protective measures to safeguard our pupils and staff following advice from 111 and Public Health England.

Following the government's update yesterday, we urge anyone with either of the following symptoms to self-isolate for 7 days:

- **new continuous cough and/or**
- **high temperature**

We have children (and staff) in school with complex medical conditions and so this advice is especially important.

In school, we will continue to use the range of strategies we already have in place to promote good hand washing and good respiratory hygiene. These include:

- Numerous hand sanitisers
- Soap and paper towels in toilets
- Children reminded to wash hands regularly and to use good respiratory hygiene.
- Educating around effective hand washing
- Washing hands or sanitising before eating.

As a school, our pupils' health and safety are paramount and we will be following this guidance closely. If children present in school with either a new cough and/or a high temperature, we will ask you to collect your child and to keep them at home for the following seven days. We are aware this may mean more pupils will be kept at home more than usual. We would like to reassure you that pupils who are self-isolating will be recorded as that in registers and it will not affect their attendance data.

As the spread of Covid-19 progresses, we expect that a number of pupils and staff may need to self-isolate. We would ask that you refrain from putting information around this on Facebook or other social media because it increases anxiety levels and may discourage others from acting protectively for fear of undue blame or recrimination. If anyone has any concerns or questions please contact school and we will do our best to help you.

There are some things parents can do to really help us in the coming weeks:

1. Please follow the official guidance to self-isolate so that we do not have children arriving at school that are unwell that we then have to send home.
2. Please let us know if your child is not coming into school by leaving a message on our answer phone or by text.
3. Ensure your contact details are up to date so we can contact you quickly
4. Ensure your child has everything they need for the day (PE kits/ named water bottle) so we do not need to make additional phone calls home during a busy period.
5. Please ensure your child knows what their after-school arrangements are e.g. who is picking them up or which club they are attending. This will also reduce the need for unnecessary phone calls.

Headteacher: Mr David Bessant BA (QTS)

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6. Please can I request that you do not ask any member of staff about specific cases regarding other families within the community as this is confidential and they are unable to provide this information. If you wish to discuss any matter further please contact the school office and they will forward this to the appropriate member of staff who will contact you.

Thank you so much for your support. This is a fast-changing situation and we are in daily contact with Public Health England about different cases. As soon as we have any new school wide updates, we will share them with you.

Although the government response at the moment is that schools will remain open, we are making plans in case this changes and are carefully considering how we will provide work for the children during an extended closure.

If you have any questions, please see me or Miss Vousden on the gate or let the office know and we will be in contact. We are always very happy to help.

Please do not come onto the school site if you have cold/ flu symptoms, a persistent cough or a high temperature. We trust that you, like us, will follow the guidance given and act protectively towards our community.

Kind Regards,

David Bessant

The key official messages from yesterday were:

- *if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started.*
- *this action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious.*
- *plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home.*
- *ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home.*
- *stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible.*
- *sleep alone, if that is possible.*
- *wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water.*
- *stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible.*
- *you do not need to call NHS111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.*

Please use this link to read more about the stay at home guidance:

<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>

If you further guidance then please contact:

111 or the Education Helpline on Phone: 0800 046 8687/ Email:

DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)