



16.03.2020

## COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are all aware, the COVID-19 outbreak is severely affecting day to day life for us all at the moment. Currently the Government have decided that all schools should remain open. As a result, I thought you may appreciate an update on what steps and measures we are currently taking as a school to try to limit spread of the virus. All our decisions are based on official advice given to us by Public Health England. I would direct you to continue to refer to the guidance which is updated daily on their web site. We have put the link to this on the home page of our school web site as well as in this letter.

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- **A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)**
- **A new, continuous cough**

You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at [111.nhs.uk](https://111.nhs.uk). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce will be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be.

Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

### **In school we shall be taking the following steps to ensure pupils and families are kept as healthy as possible:**

- Supervised washing of hands on arrival at school and at key points throughout the school day.

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- Class based worship will replace whole school worship including VIP Worship, as from now VIP children/Worship will be postponed but everyone will still get their chance to be a VIP at a later date.
- All pupils have watched a short film about the virus and have had the chance to participate in a Q and A session with their class teacher to help dispel myths and allay fears.
- Regular temperature checks for pupils complaining of feeling poorly. Pupils with a high temperature over 37.5 will be sent home.
- We are stopping all adult volunteers in school during this period which will sadly mean a limited curriculum and the cancellation of some trips and sporting events for pupils.
- The school cleaning team will be paying particular attention to door handles, surfaces etc. and the lunch time staff are taking extra care to wipe down tables.
- We have met as a staff team and planned online learning for all pupils in the event of school closure.

**PLEASE LET OUR OFFICE TEAM KNOW ASAP IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A TABLET / i PAD, COMPUTER OR LAPTOP AT HOME THAT PUPILS CAN ACCESS FOR ONLINE HOME LEARNING OR IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO BROADBAND AT HOME.**

The government response to the outbreak can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

Handwashing advice can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

Official updates on the virus can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

