

School Update – Tuesday 17th March

Dear Parents/Carers,

From now on, school will keep in regular contact to update you on how we are managing the current situation around the coronavirus outbreak.

Thank you to everyone in the community who is remaining calm and following the government guidance to delay the spread of the infection. Please be aware that in circumstances like these, the 'rumour mill' can create problems with mis-information, so please don't believe everything you hear on social media – one aim of this regular communication from school is to share the factual situation as things stand to the very best of our knowledge at the time of writing.

What's the current situation?

- School has not been informed of any confirmed cases of the virus affecting any of our pupils or staff.
- School remains open.
- If your child is well, no other members of your household have a cough or high temperature and they have no serious underlying health conditions (eg diagnosed heart or lung conditions), they should attend school as normal.

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff – updates from previous actions

- After today, there will be no more assemblies, swimming or after-school clubs until further notice.
- Breakfast Club will continue to operate as normal.
- School sports events, staff training and meetings off-site have been cancelled.
- Children will not be using sand and water trays or playdough in Early Years or KS1
- Next week's Nursery Stay and Play is cancelled

What we need you to do

- **To help reduce the risk of spreading germs we are asking you to send your child to school with a named water bottle. Children can re-fill bottles from the fountains in class (which are regularly cleaned) but should not drink directly from water fountains anymore.**
- **You must let school know if you decide to self-isolate because you, a child or other person living in your house has developed symptoms, or have a confirmed case, of coronavirus.**
- **Given the usual tummy bugs and winter cold and 'flu bugs are still around, if you aren't sure whether symptoms could be coronavirus, use the 111.nhs.uk website for advice.**
- **If you are thinking of bringing a child who has been off school ill back into school, please ring us for advice.**
- **Please check that you can access the school website as we will use this as the main source of updated information around the school situation in the weeks and months ahead.**
- **Follow yesterday's government guidance around self-isolation, intended for:**
 - people with symptoms that may be caused by coronavirus, and do not require hospital treatment, who must remain at home until they are well
 - those living in households with someone who shows symptoms that may be caused by coronavirus (a new **cough and/or high temperature at or above 38°C**)

- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then **all household members** must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

What happens if school has to close?

- Instead of Parents' Evening, teachers are having a staff meeting tonight to look at ways in which education can continue remotely in the increasingly likely event that schools are ordered to close. We will also be preparing other resources the children can take home to continue with their education in the short term.
- We will contact you separately with a short survey to help us in finding out whether you can access online learning from home.
- Please note we will not be providing work for children absent from school unless we are instructed to close the whole school by Public Health England or the government.
- Be aware that we will manage each day from now on, in a similar way to a snow day. If we have staff shortages and low pupil numbers, we may start to make year-group classes where we can safely do so, in order to cover staff absences. Where this is not possible, we may have to send some classes or year-groups home in what we call a 'partial closure'. We will contact you by text message in this situation – so it is vital that we have up-to-date mobile phone numbers for you. Please phone through any contact details if these have changed from what we have on our records.

If you would like help with translation of this letter, please inform the school office and we will ask a member of staff to help you.

Thanks to everyone in the community for their calm, continuing support and understanding during this difficult time. Let's continue working together in support of everyone's health and wellbeing.

Mr K Buck

Headteacher