



17th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

The scale and seriousness of the coronavirus situation is continuing to develop and no doubt you will have seen the latest government advice, which states:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started.
- 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.
- schools should remain open at present, but all but non-essential activities are being strongly discouraged in accordance with significant 'social distancing' advice
- Symptoms include a high temperature or a new and continuous cough. Anyone in this category showing any possible symptoms should follow the advice of Public Health England / the NHS (via the online service / NHS 111)

The self-isolation guidance in full is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance> .

Public health advice remains that all hand washing etc. is more important than ever. Please continue to help us reinforce this with our children and young people.

Our school remains open but is likely to see a greater level of absence from pupils and staff who fall into the categories above. This will put increasing strain on us but we are aiming to deliver as much normality as we can. Non-essential activities, however, will not take place in the light of the government's advice to limit social contact. Parents should assume that this includes all events and meetings at the school, and we would ask you to make contact with the school (by phone or email) with any queries. Please note, however, that it may take some time to respond to the large volume of queries that we will be receiving. Thank you for your patience as we work through these.

Although the government has been clear that it is not yet the point for school closures we know that might come. We have been working to develop plans to support learning for our pupils in that event and shall have more information on that if it becomes necessary.

We will continue to keep in regular contact with parents. Please ensure that you check your emails for updates. I'm sure that we will all want to support each other at this time of worry and challenge.

Many Thanks,

Amy Townsend

Headteacher