



17th March 2020

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Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday we have been given new guidance from the Government to ensure we are protecting ourselves and the communities in which we live. Further to this advice, if it is necessary for your child to stay off school due to illness or self-isolation please can you ensure that when calling the school absence line you mention this specifically so we can code the absence accurately.

We will remain open until advised otherwise by Public Health England or it becomes logistically impossible to do so. As a school we have a duty to ensure we continue to provide education for our students and to protect the most vulnerable in our community and support our families.

The latest current guidance and advice is: *"if one person in any household has a continuous cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days."* Please also be advised that if your child was to become ill in school and displaying symptoms, we will be required to isolate them and ask you to come and collect them as soon as possible.

It is important that all in our school are following this advice to try to restrict any possible transmission of the virus. As a school we are advising the students to wash their hands regularly through the school day.

If you are concerned about the transmission of the virus at home due to family members having serious, underlying health issues, family members living in the household who are over 70 or if members of your household are pregnant, the advice at this time would be to self-isolate.

Please see this important advice regarding vulnerable group and social distancing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

We are getting updates from the Department for Education with regards to the Coronavirus. Due to the fast-evolving nature of this situation, however, it is important that you use the following link to the UK Government's Coronavirus (COVID-19) web page for the most up to date information. You can access this information by clicking the link below:

<https://Gov.uk> Coronavirus (COVID-19): latest information and advice.

Please see the following posts for helpful information from Young Minds about how to discuss with your child about COVID-19.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

If you have any questions, please contact NHS 111 or your GP for medical advice.

Thank you for your continued support for our school and the wider community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A L Kennedy
Head of School