

Dear Parents,

The Prime Minister announced new measures and advice to the public in relation to Covid-19.

If your child is well they should attend school.

**However, if they present with any symptoms -
A high temperature and/or
A new continuous cough
then they should remain at home in isolation for 14 days.**

**In addition, anyone in the same household should also self-isolate for 14 days regardless of whether they have symptoms themselves.
Moreover, any child who presents these symptoms at school will be isolated and parents will be called immediately.**

It is also advised to stop non-essential contact with others and to stop all unnecessary travel. The Prime Minister also added that 'We need people to start working from home where they possibly can. And you should avoid pubs, clubs, theatres and other such social venues.'

These are wide ranging decisions that will affect all of us in some way. As a school we have made preparations today to enable learning to continue for those families that are isolated from school. Websites will be sent to help keep children occupied with home learning and teachers will send work with children this week.

We will be sending a reading book home with the children and would like you to keep this there rather than send it back into school at the moment. You could use this book or other books to read with your child. Reading is essential so if your child is absent from school please keep up their reading and reading diary. Timetables and number work is also crucial and any support you can give your child will help keep up the basics while they are off school.

I appreciate that there will be difficult and worrying times ahead for us all. We need to all work together to keep one another safe.

We should still follow the advice on general hygiene and measures we can take to limit and delay the virus which are to:

1. wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds,
2. always wash your hands when you get home or into work,
3. use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available,
4. cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze,
5. put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards,
6. try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell,
7. not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean,

As a school we are in regular communication with Public Health England and Department for Education over measures which we as a setting can take in response to the current situation and the situation remains that there is no requirement for school to do anything other than the measures detailed above.

The advice continues to state that school should be open for business as usual but this is only if there are enough staff to function safely. The current situation is we are already struggling. We have had to send staff home with underlying health conditions and also those with any symptoms.

Our current position is:

No caretaker to open and close school

A lack of dinner ladies

A lack of cleaners (we are cleaning ourselves)

No head teacher (I am currently in isolation for 14 days as my child has symptoms)

No year 1 teacher

No year 2 teacher

4 teaching assistants have been sent home

If staff levels continue to fall, then we will not be able to effectively function and our children with special needs who need 1:1 support would not be catered for. We are currently reviewing the situation one day at a time.

I would like to prepare parents now by saying there is a high chance we will have to close by the end of this week if more staff go into isolation as we will not be able to function safely.

Let us all continue to help and support one another during this difficult time of uncertainty and emergency. Thank you for the kindness and understanding we have received in school so far from parents. We will continue to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C M O'Donnell