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Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **COVID-19 update**

This letter is to update you on the current advice regarding the Coronavirus outbreak and to let you know what we are doing in school to keep all our children and staff healthy.

Yesterday, following the COBRA meeting, the advice about what to do if you are unwell has changed. If you have a new cough or a high temperature you should stay at home for 7 days. You should not call NHS111 unless your symptoms worsen. You should try and self-isolate within your home to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus to those you live with. If your symptoms get worse or are no better after 7 days, you should seek medical advice. This advice is summarised helpfully at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51711227> and more detailed advice can be found on the Public Health England site at <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

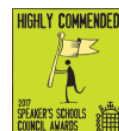
So if your child starts with a fever or has a new cough they should be off school for 7 days. Please call us as you usually would to inform us of your child's absence. The same advice is being followed for our staff.

There is potential for the government to close schools, though this is not imminent and we do not know when or if this will happen. However we are making plans. If the school should close it would be for the following reasons:

- Government takes action to close the schools
- Staff are absent to a level that it would not be safe to keep the school open

In the event of school closure, your child will be given a pack of work which is currently being prepared by year teams. We do not have the capacity for on-line learning and we realise that access to this in our children's homes would be variable and that some children might be disadvantaged in not being able to access this. Each child will have a pack containing spellings to practise, maths, reading and writing activities and ideas. If the schools close we will not necessarily know how long we will be shut and therefore we are aiming to give a range of tasks that would provide extended opportunities for the time we are closed.

We have a strict handwashing protocol in place: on arrival at school, before a snack, before lunch, after lunch and before going home. Your child will be able to explain this to you. I would remind parents that face masks are entirely useless and any child wearing one will be asked to remove it. By following the advice given above and the guidance on handwashing, our children and staff have the best chance to stay healthy.



I will, of course keep you updated with any further guidance we receive.

Yours sincerely



Helen Williamson  
Headteacher

