



13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on our intentions now that the Government has moved into the 'Delay Phase' of their 4 stage plan regarding the Covid-19 virus. We are following the ongoing guidance being issued by the Department for Education on a daily basis, in collaboration with Public Health England. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

We continue to follow the advice but it is important that we are prepared and have measures in place to manage an increase in the level of absence from school, particularly in terms of school operations, should a significant number of staff report ill.

#### **Pupils/Staff Unwell**

If a pupil is unwell, parents should follow the guidance issued by Public Health which is accessible from the following link on their website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>. We will continue to send appropriate updates home. At this time, the Government's Medical and Science advisors have advised that all children should attend school unless they are displaying a new, continuous cough and/or temperature of 37.8 (or above). This advice is also applicable for staff. Further advice can also be found here:

<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/coronavirus-covid-19/>

#### **Partial Closure**

The current advice remains that no school should issue a closure notice unless told to do so by Public Health England. Should large numbers of staff be unable to attend the workplace, preventing the school from being able to function safely, a discussion with the governors will take place, to ascertain whether a partial closure may be necessary. It is important to remember that staff absence will not necessarily be as a result of the Covid 19 virus but possibly because of the preventative measures to ensure illness does not spread.

Should a member of staff (or a pupil) be confirmed as having the Covid-19 virus we will follow Public Health advice. Under such circumstances and where a partial closure of a school is implemented, teaching staff will be expected to work flexibly. It is likely that a normal timetable will be suspended and that teaching staff will be expected to teach in year groups which may be unfamiliar to them. In the event of a partial school closure the viability of the school opening fully the next day will be assessed and parents will be advised by 4pm of plans for the next day.

#### **Full School Closure**

As we have seen in Italy, a programme of full school closure may be a measure that the Government decides to implement in an attempt to contain the spread of Covid-19. It may also be advice we are issued with should a case of the virus be confirmed within the school. The staff have been asked to prepare work for the children and this will be sent home on the last day of school and will be uploaded to the website too. There may also be on-line resources we are able to access for the children.

A full school closure will be shared in the usual way via the school text service, County website and social media.

Parents may also need to provide packed lunches if our food provider is closed.

We thank you for your support and patience and ask that you continue to follow advice from reliable sources to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Should public advice change, we will ensure you have the most relevant and up-to-date information.

Kind regards

Tracey Hart, Headteacher

**Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.**

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