



17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is an unprecedented period for our school. Many of us are anxious and concerned about the future. At present, the government are remaining steadfast that schools should remain open. We are following government guidelines to ensure that school can function.

However, pupils and families, following the advice of the authorities, are needing to self-isolate. This extends to some staff too. Inevitably, it appears that at some point the number of staff in school will impact on our ability to maintain a full complement of classes in the school.

If the ratio of staff and pupils becomes too difficult to manage, we will ask specific groups of children to stay at home. We will endeavour to keep you informed in a timely manner. But, as you will all appreciate, this is a rapidly changing situation. Rest assured, that at this moment, we are not at this stage.

It may be that in order to remain open, we will need to organise different methods of supervision, such as putting groups of children together in mixed classes.

Parents may wish to think about their childcare provision should some form of closure be required in the future. In line with current guidance, we will not, for the foreseeable future, be hosting events in school like assemblies or parents' evenings, which bring staff and students into contact with large groups of people.

You will be aware that the situation is continually changing, as is the advice we receive from the DfE and Public Health England (PHE).

In this respect, it important that parents understand how the school is responding and the action that it is reasonable for us to take.

The latest guidance is contained in link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government->

#### Self-isolation and attendance

Schools have to follow the advice regarding self-isolation and we are currently coding absences from school accordingly and in line with Local Authority guidance. It is therefore important that parents follow this advice and do not send their children into school if they have the following:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

We will direct parents to follow the advice and guidance and we are not in a position to discuss any challenge to the Government and PHE advice with parents individually. We ask that parents fully co-operate with the guidance regarding self-isolation and respond promptly to any requests to collect their child from school.

If students/families do have to self-isolate, the guidance contained in the link below should be followed:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Please note that today's update has stated that anyone in the same house as someone with a cough or fever will have to isolate themselves for fourteen days.

Work when absent

At this stage, staff will not be asked to provide work for individual students who are self-isolating. Should the situation change or the numbers self-isolating increase, we will review this position.

School trips and visits

The latest government guidance includes that schools should now refrain from unnecessary travel. In the summer, we are due to participate in a number of visits and residential trips. We are awaiting further clarification regarding how long this guidance is in force for and we will update parents as soon as possible regarding those trips that have already been booked.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr M Snow  
Interim Executive Head