



Headteacher: Mr. Neil McKellar-Turner

Tuesday 17 March 2020

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update #2

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Following further information from the government yesterday, I am writing, again, to families to ensure that this key information is shared with all members of our school community.

What you need to do

As of the 16th March, the latest guidance from Public Health England is as follows:

- if your child has any symptoms of coronavirus (continuous cough or high temperature) then **they and all household members** must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period
- any member of your household who has an underlying health condition needs to be carefully considered at this point in time

If any of the above are appropriate to your child or household, please do the following:

- telephone the school office if your child is going to be absent from school either because they have symptoms of coronavirus or they are having to self-isolate because another household member has symptoms
- continue to telephone the school office to report any other absence from school
- adhere to the latest guidance from Public Health England and the UK Government <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>
- make sensible and proportionate decisions about your child's attendance at school. We appreciate that these are difficult times for everyone. We will communicate regularly with families to ensure you have the necessary information

What we will do

- authorise absences that are as a result of self-isolation due to a pupil having symptoms of coronavirus
- authorise absences that are as a result of self-isolation arising from living with another household member who has symptoms of coronavirus

We are also adhering to Public Health England's advice on 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>. This has resulted in us having to make the following changes for the remainder of this term in order to reduce any, non-essential, social interaction:

- there will be no whole school assemblies/ acts of Collective Worship
- extending lunch times to enable all pupils to wash their hands thoroughly
- Year 3 swimming lessons have been cancelled
- asked all volunteers and helpers to not come into school in order to protect both our young people and themselves
- the KS2 disco, planned for Thursday 19th March, will now be postponed
- all sporting competitions and fixtures involving pupils outside of our school will be postponed

Whilst we understand this is frustrating for our pupils and families, please be assured that we are acting in the best interests of our young people in order to safeguard our pupils. It is likely that we will need to introduce further measures or make other changes as we receive new information from the Government, Public Health and the Local Authority.

At present, we will continue to run extra-curricular clubs (including breakfast and after-school club) but this is under constant review in line with the latest information and pending any issues we may have in relation to staffing and supervision.

What next?

Schools are being told to remain open at this point in time. However, we are making contingency plans should a partial or full closure be necessary at any point in the future either due to the virus itself or because of staffing issues.

In order to support our planning, can you please make sure that we have **your up to date contact information including email address and priority telephone number**. If we do have to close the school for any reason, we will notify families via our text and email system. The closure would also be added to the South Gloucestershire Online School Closure System: <http://essential.southglos.gov.uk/schoolstatus/default.aspx>

We are currently discussing the scope and format of any learning that could be completed at home in the event of a school closure. However, for now, if your child is absent from school due to self-isolation **and** is fit enough to complete any work, then we would recommend the following learning activities:

- regular reading and discussion about the book with an adult or older sibling
- Times Tables Rock Stars or any other interactive website or game to support learning multiplication facts
- practising year group and weekly spelling lists
- websites such as BBC who have online learning resources for children:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/

Our school will operate as normally as possible with continued vigilance around hygiene. If we cancel events, appointments and meetings, this will be due to us managing what is a challenging and evolving situation at school level and do ask for your understanding.

In order to keep yourself and your families fully informed, please visit the following website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

If you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

The school is at the centre of the community and we will continue to play our part in supporting others and operating with compassion and kindness. Our principle concern as educators is the health and well-being of our students and staff. We will of course update you as and when we receive any new information or advice.

Thank you for your support and continued understanding at this unprecedented time.

Best wishes,



Neil McKellar-Turner
Headteacher