

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: **Attendance of Pupils and Staff at School following Public Health England's Guidance**

We are writing to keep you up-to-date with the latest advice regarding COVID-19.

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We are contacting you to let you know what the school is doing in light of this, and the support we ask of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe.

In line with the advice published yesterday evening by Public Health England, we are advising those that are at increased risk of illness from coronavirus to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures. This group includes those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions);
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (i.e. anyone instructed to get a 'flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
- chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as [asthma](#), [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\)](#), emphysema or [bronchitis](#)
- chronic heart disease, such as [heart failure](#)
- [chronic kidney disease](#)
- chronic liver disease, such as [hepatitis](#)
- chronic neurological conditions, such as [Parkinson's disease](#), [motor neurone disease](#), [multiple sclerosis \(MS\)](#), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
- [diabetes](#)
- problems with your spleen – for example, [sickle cell](#) disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as [HIV and AIDS](#), or medicines such as [steroid tablets](#) or [chemotherapy](#)
- being seriously overweight (a BMI of 40 or above);
- those who are pregnant.

In light of the government's guidance, anyone with symptoms of a new cough or high temperature (37.8°C or higher) is to follow the updated guidelines below:

- 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 appear, regardless of the stage you are at in the original 14-day isolation period.

Please do not send any child in to school who are showing any of these symptoms.

The school will continue to be open for all other pupils and staff, unless otherwise advised by Public Health England or circumstances beyond the school's control such as shortages of staff.

We will regularly update parents and staff of any changes by text, e-mail or updates to the school website. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Your support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to returning to normal as soon as ever possible.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R England  
Headteacher