

Dear Parent / Carer,

We appreciate your patience and support in these unprecedented times. We aim to keep you regularly informed of our situation as the national picture and government advice is changing quickly, so please check our website and Twitter for regular updates.

Following a change in government guidance around staying at home and social distancing, nationally we are all being asked to keep schools open.

The reasons for this are the impact on older carers, the impact on the children and on parents and employers.

Please find the following information from the Public Health England website, which is updated daily.

Public Health England issued advice for educational settings updated on 16th March. Below are extracts for your information. This guidance may be updated in line with the changing situation.

What you need to know

- *staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal*
- *if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home*
- *clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products*
- *supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues*
- *unless you have been directly advised to close by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team, we recommend all education settings remain open*

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough or a high temperature.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection.

Limiting spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in educational settings

Education settings can help reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by reminding everyone of the public health advice.

Staff, children, pupils, students and families should be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently than normal.

Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using your standard cleaning products.

What is social distancing?

Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Everyone should be trying to follow these measures as much as is pragmatic.

For those who are over 70, have an underlying health condition or are pregnant, we strongly advise you to follow the above measures as much as you can, and to significantly limit your face-to-face interaction with friends and family if possible.

This advice is likely to be in place for some weeks. Further details can be found here [Guidance on social distancing](#)

Staying at home

Government guidance now states:

- *if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started.*
- *if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then 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.*

The full details of the above [can be found here](#) and are also attached to this email.

Thank you for your continued support, as we manage changing situations for the safeguarding of pupil, staff and our community.

Best wishes

Dr Louise Guthrie