

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Coronavirus/COVID-19 Update: 18<sup>th</sup> March**

I am writing to update you on the school's situation in the current COVID-19 Pandemic. There will be regular updates via email and all correspondence will also be posted on the website. A text will be sent to notify you that an update has been issued.

The current government advice is that 'No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England'. However, if necessary and due to local conditions, headteachers may have to make arrangements for partial opening or total closure outside of the PHE advice.

As a result of the latest government's guidance on self-isolation and their guidance on social distancing, we are finding it increasingly difficult to fully staff the school.

The school remains open but if the situation arises where children cannot attend school, we will notify you immediately. This will only happen if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school safely.

We are sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are no immediate plans to close, but the situation is changing very quickly. It may be that we will have to partially close very soon if the staffing shortages increase.

Please can any parents who work in the NHS; care services for the elderly and vulnerable; the emergency and other essential services and local authority services to let us know so that we can consider this when making decisions. Please email the office to let us know as soon as possible.

We are working hard to prepare resources, both hard copies and online to be used in the event of either full school closure or partial closure or if children are at home in self-isolation. These will be available by tomorrow at the latest. Please can you make sure children either bring their book bag or a carrier bag in tomorrow to collect resources. We will endeavour to get the hard copies of resources to the children who are already self-isolating.

I appreciate that any closure will cause significant disruption but we will need to make decisions based on operating safely for our pupils and staff. I will keep you updated about arrangements going forward, but please check our website regularly and read all correspondence.

Please be assured that the safety of pupils, staff and the school community remain our priority and we are happy to be of assistance where we can however the office is also operating on reduced numbers so please limit your requests and questions to essential ones. I would also request that you read all the guidance being given by the government agencies and be aware that it is regularly updated (**see below**).

This is a very difficult time but I am confident that our wonderful Kilmorie community will work together to get through it. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Liz Stone  
Head Teacher

**Coronavirus Advice - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (please check links below for any changes to this advice)**

Anyone who develops the following symptoms must stay at home for 14 days (seven days if they live alone):-

- a high temperature
- and/or
- a new continuous cough

Everyone who lives in the same household as someone with symptoms must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

Do not go (or take your child) to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

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

**Stay at home guidance can be found at:**

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

**Advice for vulnerable people:**

<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>

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### **What we need you to do**

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**.
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).
- If your child is unwell or is self-isolating, report this as soon as possible, as you would do normally.
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.

If anyone becomes ill during the school day they will need to go home and will be asked to remain at home for 14 days. Any siblings in school will also be asked to go home and self-isolate for 14 days. You will need to let the schools of any other siblings know so that they can do the same.