

16th March 2020

PLEASE NOTE THIS LETTER HAS BEEN CHANGED TO COVER THE LATEST UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus/ COVID-19 Update – 16th March – Latest Advice

I am sure that you are all following the news closely and are aware of the new Coronavirus advice that came out on Friday.

If anyone in a household has the symptoms below the entire household must self-isolate for 14 days:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

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 are staying at home.

For most people, Coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection but if symptoms get worse contact NHS 111 online. <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care/nhs-111/>

If you have no 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>

Please let the school know as soon as possible if your child is self-isolating or continue to inform us about absence due to other illness or circumstances.

If anyone becomes ill with the Coronavirus symptoms during the school day they will need to go home and will be asked to remain at home for 14 days. **Please make sure that the school has up-to-date contact details for you and that you keep phones on so we can get in touch with you if necessary.**

We do not have any confirmed COVID-19 cases at school.

We have been informed by some members of staff and families that they are following the medical advice and are self-isolating at this time. We wish them all well.

Coronavirus/ COVID-19 Update – 16th March – Latest Advice

2

Public Health England and Department for Education current advice for schools in London is that staff and pupils should monitor themselves for symptoms and self-isolate if they experience symptoms. People who do not have symptoms are advised to carry on as normal and do not need to self-isolate.

We understand that parents are concerned about the risk of their children catching Coronavirus and that some may want to keep children at home even though they are not required to do so by the medical advice. **All pupils who are well enough to come to school and who do not have the symptoms described above, nor do any of their household, should attend school as normal.** If your child has an underlying health issue and you have concerns please seek medical advice.

We will continue to follow the advice of the Department for Education and Public Health England and we will keep you informed of any updates.

We are encouraging all children and staff to wash hands properly and regularly and we are taking extra care with cleaning. If you need to come into school there is a hand sanitiser for visitors to use just inside the main door. **However, do not come into the building unless it is necessary.**

The school have taken the decision to cancel all trips and events. This includes the spring music and dance performances and class assemblies. We will endeavour to give children the opportunity to perform to their peers where possible. This is to reduce the risk to our staff and pupils and to ensure that staff capacity can be prioritised for the day-to-day running of the school. I am sorry that this will be disappointing for you and your children but on this occasion, we must err on the side of caution.

We are in the process of making contingency plans in case of school closures. This includes collating learning resources that can be accessed from home.

Please make sure you check the NHS and government websites daily:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

As you know we continually collect for the Lewisham Foodbank. It is vitally important that they continue to receive contributions, particularly during this difficult time, so please do continue to give donations if you are able.

I realise that this is a very worrying time for all of us. Rest assured that the safety of pupils, staff and the school community remains our priority and we will keep you updated with any new information.

Yours faithfully



Liz Stone