

Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following my communications on Friday, I wanted to provide you with an update regarding COVID-19 and school.

As you are aware, we are following DfE and Public Health England advice and with this in mind our doors are remaining firmly open to our pupils.

However, I would like to reiterate the advice of Public Health England which states that individuals should self-isolate for 7 days if:

- a) They have a raised temperature of 37.8 degrees or above

AND/OR

- b) They have a **NEW** and continuous cough.

The decision to keep your child at home as a precaution without the above symptoms or without knowledge of direct contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, will result in an unauthorised absence.

If you are choosing to self-isolate your child, you must notify us on day one of the self-isolation and we take this as notice for the following six days. If your child is ill for any other reason, you must continue to notify the school on each day of absence.

Public Health England have provided the following guidance on self-isolation

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>):

- a) Stay at home
- b) Separate yourself as best as you can from others in your house
- c) Minimise the time you spend in shared spaces
- d) Make contact with 111 if your symptoms worsen.

Whilst we are doing everything in our power to continue with school life as normal, the biggest challenge we face as a school is keeping our pupils and staff team safe and well. It is imperative that we take every measure to protect our staff to ensure that we can stay adequately staffed in order to keep open.

In line with this, we have therefore had to make some tough decisions about how we can maximise this and reduce the exposure of our staff team to the virus. The Local Authority have advised schools to consider calendared events very carefully and make decisions based on risk assessment about whether they should go ahead, be postponed or cancelled with possible alternative arrangements.

Having considered risk very carefully we have made the decision that the following events **will not go ahead**:

Event	Notes
Celebration Assemblies	These assemblies will be postponed to also reduce the amount of times we are asking large groups of children to congregate together. Notice of rearranged dates will be sent out during the Summer term.
Parents attending lunch	We are limiting visitors into school to only professionals whose visit is essential. We will notify you when you are able to join your child for lunch, we hope this will be sometime in the Summer term.
Year 3/4 Performance	The two shows would bring together over 160 people in the hall at a time, many of which could be grandparents who are in a higher risk group. We will therefore postpone the production and re-schedule later in the year if possible (dependent on length of the epidemic).
RockSteady Concert	The performance would bring together over 100 people in the hall at a time, many of whom could be grandparents who are in a higher risk group. We have therefore asked RockSteady to postpone this concert. RockSteady will instead provide a lesson to this children on the date of the concert.

At the current time, the following school events **will go ahead**:

Events	Notes
Mother's Day Sale	This event will be run by school staff/Year 6 pupils eliminating the need for PTA members to come into

	school.
Year 2 Viking Day	This event only brings one visitor into school as the rest of the adults are staff.
HSSP Sports Fixtures	These events are run outside and only school staff attend.

The above events will be risk assessed with the individuals involved and may be postponed at short notice if the provider or venue decides to cancel the events.

Please note that both school run and school co-ordinated clubs are continuing to run; however, if we receive any information from external providers linked to the school co-ordinated clubs we will let you know ASAP.

Future events, trips and visits and visitors will be considered in line with the progression of the virus and the advice/imperatives we receive from the Local Authority and Government.

I am sure that parents will understand how difficult the situation is for schools at the moment and will support these decisions.

Please continue to keep personal hygiene high on the agenda for your family and please inform us immediately if any member of your family becomes unwell.

Thank you so much for your understanding and support.

Kindest regards,



Tess Fielden

Head of School