

Friday 13 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to pass onto you the updated advice and guidance regarding the spread of Coronavirus from the Department for Education, following the COBRA meeting chaired by the Prime Minister yesterday.

The government has now moved into the second phase of response to the virus: the delay phase. This new phase brings with it additional actions designed to slow the spread of the virus.

There are no current plans to close the school. The school will only close if the Department for Education or Public Health England instructs us to do so or if we are unable to staff the school, due to a high staff absence rate.

Children are safe to come to school; we ask them to continue following the hygiene rules previously sent out. Currently, we have no confirmed cases of Coronavirus. We also have no cases of suspected Coronavirus (where the person has the symptoms and has been in contact with someone with the virus).

Following the guidance issued by the government last night, children with **a new persistent cough or high temperature (37.8 degrees or above)** should self-isolate and stay at home for 7 days. They should undertake an online self-assessment, using this link: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>. This survey will assess the level of risk and then provide further guidance if necessary. This online link should be used in the first instance, rather than contacting the 111 service.

If a parent believes their child may have been in contact with another person, adult or child with symptoms of the virus but their child doesn't have the symptoms, the advice is that the child should undertake the online self-assessment and be guided by the advice this generates.

From guidance received, parents should still report the absence to the school in the normal way, on only the first day of self-isolating, indicating how many days your child will be absent. We will then not require parents to contact again until the time period has passed. In these circumstances, we will not count their absence as a normal absence.

The government advice is that schools should cancel trips and visits abroad but those within England are safe. It may well be that this advice changes next week and we will notify parents on a trip by trip basis if we do have any further information or advice to give.

With best wishes,

Kirstie Baines  
**Headteacher**

