



15th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus Update

Following further updates from Public Health England I felt it was important to share with you the most recent advice alongside confirming that we are fully implementing the advice for educational settings in school. As updates from the official agencies occur on a regular basis we will continue to monitor the situation in a timely manner. Should there be any substantial change to the current advice we will write to parents/carers again to advise.

Please be assured of our commitment to take the most appropriate course of action in order to safeguard the wellbeing of SPCEDS pupils and staff and to ensure their continued access to education. We are holding regular meetings and consultations, both within school and with the Trust, to review, process and reconcile the ongoing and frequently updated information from a variety of sources including PHE and the DfE as part of our contingency planning. We continue to implement the public health and hygiene advice given by Public Health England, whilst also taking additional measures in school to reduce the potential risk of infection.

We are using this letter to cover a variety of important messages and so please either keep it safe or print a copy off.

Good personal hygiene continues to be the best preventative measure. The main control is regular and thorough hand washing. In accordance with the PHE advice please be aware that all visitors attending the school are asked to use the hand sanitiser located in reception. Staff and pupils are similarly following the advice from PHE with pupils reminded to wash their hands throughout the school day. DfE and PHE guidance is also being closely followed in terms of the school environment, particularly in relation to cleaning and hygiene.

Within the UK there is currently no official recommendation to close entire schools and as such the school remains open with business as usual.

The school has begun to plan for a number of eventualities, with the guidance changing day to day, including the possibility of a school closure notice. We intend to communicate with students and parents via the homepage of the school website and the Wisepay email system if required. If you could please ensure that we have the correct email contact for you to support with this that would be appreciated.

We continue to fully risk assess trips, sports fixtures and school events, following both Local Authority and government advice. With a number of events planned in the coming weeks, including Parent Consultation meetings, please be assured that we will inform parents, carers and students if individual trips, fixtures or events are cancelled or postponed as a result of this advice.

The Government has also strengthened their advice on self-isolation and anyone showing even the mildest of symptoms should self-isolate for seven days. We will continue to monitor pupils and will contact parents/carers should a child present any of the identified symptoms. We would also ask that you are vigilant in your monitoring and act accordingly, keeping school informed. The symptoms are:

- a) Fever
- b) Dry cough
- c) Shortness of breath

We would ask parents/carers to continue to be vigilant with regards to their child's health and to follow the PHE and NHS advice if they are concerned that they are displaying the symptoms of coronavirus, Covid-19. If in doubt, call NHS 111 and do not send your child to school.

With regards to the advice from PHE, please again find the link to their website below along with the advice poster. If any parent/carer is concerned about the health of their child, or indeed themselves, they should follow the directions within this advice.

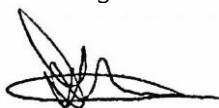
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869250/Coronavirus_advice_for_educational_settings_poster.pdf

As a parent myself I appreciate that there are parents/carers that are worried and anxious about the current situation. Please be assured, as I said at the start of this letter, that we continue to follow all advice from Public Health England, the NHS and the DFE whilst liaising with the Local NHS clinicians to ensure that we continue to respond and react appropriately.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,



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