



striving for excellence

Wentworth Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs D. Dack
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S. Waller

16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: COVID-19

I wanted to take the time to clarify and reassure you of the actions we are taking as a response to this situation.

The health of our pupils and staff is our biggest priority. We are closely following the advice of Public Health England and the Local Authority which is updated daily.

We are advising any pupils or staff who show symptoms to follow government advice surrounding medical care and self-isolation, which is currently to self-isolate for seven days.

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- *A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)*
- *A new, continuous cough*
- *Shortness of breath – likely to follow after the first 2 symptoms*

You do not need to call 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 or online at 111.nhs.uk. It is not necessary for other family members or siblings to self-isolate unless they too are displaying symptoms.

Please make us aware if your child is having to self-isolate or has developed symptoms and we will discuss the next steps with you in terms of school attendance. The School cannot make this decision for you, please make it clear to the Office if your child is absent due to self-isolation.

At this time the school is unable to provide individual packs of homework for children currently self-isolating. We would recommend you access It's Learning, Espresso and TT Rockstars. Should the school close arrangements will be made to provide children with access to home learning resources.

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce would be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to education or children's social care settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

As a school we have intensified cleaning of all areas, with surfaces and door handles being regularly disinfected. Hand sanitiser is readily available in all classrooms, as well as in communal areas of the school. Children and staff are being directed to wash their hands frequently, again in line with Public Health England advice.



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As a precaution we have taken the decision to reduce all non-essential visitors entering the school:

- On this basis we have decided to cancel all Mothers' Day dinners and afternoon tea and games for this week and next week, and will arrange a full refund of this shortly.
- The Mothers' Day stalls will continue to go ahead with support from PTA members. We will ask all children to wash their hands regardless of whether they have handled money or not and sanitiser will be provided when they visit the stalls.
- The Year 2 trip to Hanningfield Reservoir will go ahead on Thursday as planned. We have checked and the children will spend much of their time outside and will not be mixing with other schools or members of the public.
- The Boys Year 5/6 Football and Year 3/4 Football tournaments has been cancelled by the external organisers.
- Open the Book assemblies will not be taking place in the School until after the Easter holidays.
- We are still allowing parent helpers to come in as planned, but please don't come in if you are not feeling well.

As a school we take our duty of care extremely seriously and will keep you updated on any further developments. Thank you for your ongoing support in these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D Dack