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Headteacher: Hayley Marshall

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### **Covid-19 Update**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following queries from some of you about the situation in school with regard to Covid-19 we thought it would be useful to provide an update.

We appreciate this is a worrying time however we would like to re-assure you that all schools are currently provided with daily updates from the DfE and are following this advice as well as the guidance issued by Public Health England and the NHS. We are using these updates to help us develop and inform our contingency planning. At the moment the advice is to continue as normal but with an additional focus on handwashing and cleaning regimes.

In terms of our daily routines in school, our cleaning regime has been further strengthened with a particular focus on frequent touch surfaces such as door handles, handrails and touch screen devices. We regularly check toilets to ensure that they are fully stocked with hand soap and additional sanitisers have been placed strategically around school.

As far as possible we will maintain normal running of the school whilst ensuring we have plans in place in case of any of the following occurs:-

1. Instruction to close the whole school for a limited period.
2. A case is confirmed within the school community.
3. High levels of staff illness/absence due to self- isolation, make it impossible to staff all classes.

#### **1. Instruction to close the whole school for a limited period.**

Our teachers will provide homework through the school website and Purple Mash accounts if we find ourselves in this scenario, we will issue specific instructions to pupils and parents. We will use WhatsApp, our website and Twitter to update you and to also inform you when the school would be reopened.

#### **2. Infection affects a member of our school community and a case is confirmed.**

In this scenario, the school would have to follow direct guidance from Public Health England.



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### 3. High levels of staff illness/absence, making it impossible to staff all classes.

In this scenario, we can cope with a certain level of staff absence, this may include combining teaching groups. If, however, the levels of absence became too high and it becomes a danger in terms of ratios then we would have to close school.

During this period, we ask that parents follow the normal absence procedures. As you may be aware the advice from Public Health England has changed as of 12th March 2020. The current advice is for individuals with a new persistent cough or high temperature of 37.8C or above to stay at home and self-isolate for seven days. If any absence is linked to suspected Covid-19 please ensure that you inform the school. Please also ensure that your mobile phone number, email address and emergency contact details are up to date.

Guidance on how to self-isolate to ensure this is effective can be found on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolationfor-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>

General advice can be found on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We hope that this letter updates you on our current planning whilst recognising that this is an evolving situation. Please also be reassured that we will continue to make measured decisions in the best interests of the whole school community, whilst following the guidance provided by the DfE and Public Health England.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we plan for these potential scenarios.

Yours sincerely



Hayley Marshall  
Headteacher



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