



11 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

You will have heard speculation in the media about schools closing as part of the action plan to contain Coronavirus. I want to reassure you firstly that there are currently no known cases of Coronavirus at the school or other schools in the area, and the DfE advice at the moment is to stay open. We are following government advice carefully and I attach a poster/leaflet that I am sure you have seen but I hope will be useful anyway in ensuring good hygiene, which is the best way to reduce risk of infection.

With regard to the likelihood of children getting the virus, the DfE website says this:

*Illness is less common and usually less severe in younger adults. Children can be infected and can have a severe illness, but based on current data overall illness seems rarer in people under 20 years of age.*

Reducing risk:

- It is important that you tell us if you/your child have returned from China, South Korea or Northern Italy so that we can work with you to reduce the risk of infection.
- Follow the advice about handwashing and catching sneezes/coughs (Bag it, Bin it, Kill it)

Advice for parents:

- BBC advice for parents: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51734855>
- How to keep safe: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51711227>

Contingency plan:

Just for your information, in the unlikely event of there being a high number of staff taken ill, we will follow the same procedure as any critical incident such as snow.

- We will endeavour to stay open if at all possible. We will prioritise the year groups as follows:
  - Year 11s are the priority of course as they have GCSEs and children on Free School Meals.
  - Year 7s to enable parents to continue to go to work.
  - Year 8s to enable parents to continue to go to work.
  - Year 10s as this is a GCSE year.
  - Year 9s.

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- Staff who are not actually ill but are unable to come in for other reasons (for example, if they are required to self-isolate), will put work on Show My Homework and work will be expected to be submitted as per children's usual timetables. For example, if your child has Maths at 11.30, work from his/her Maths teacher will be on Show My Homework and your child will be expected to complete the work set by the teacher and email it by the end of the virtual lesson as required by his/her teacher.

In order that we can maintain this level of education, please ensure that you can log into Show My Homework and that your child can access everything online. If you do not have internet access or a computer, please let us know so that we can prioritise your child in the event of a partial closure and take measures to ensure that your child can access their curriculum.

Like everyone else, I am hopeful that the school will not be affected but it is useful to be prepared just in case.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

Mrs Watson  
**Headteacher**