

18th March 2020

Dear Parents and carers

Following the Prime Minister's announcement about the increased measures being put in place to stop the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID 19), I wanted to update you on our school's response.

This is an entirely unprecedented situation and we are following official advice from the government and Public Health England but considering the individual position of our school. As I'm sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. Our priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in our school. Now more than ever, this remains our primary focus.

From today all pupils will remain on site for most of their learning. I have therefore taken the decision to cancel the following off-site activities:

- Trips and visits to large scale events
- Regular trips into the community e.g. to the shops/local cafes
- RDA
- OXSRAD

The following will continue as there is no interaction with members of the general public, if you do not wish your children to take part in the following, please put a note in their home/school diary.

- Visits to the allotment
- Walking visits to the local parks

Restrictions are currently in place for visitors coming into the school and therefore the following will also be cancelled until further notice:

- Prospective parents visiting the school
- Non-essential visitors who are not directly linked to pupil learning
- Immunisations and clinics

We will also be cancelling the forthcoming parents evening on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March as well as the afternoon tea on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Your child's interim report will be sent home at the end of this week. If you wish to discuss anything in this you will be able to request a 20-minute telephone call, to facilitate a virtual consultation.

In the meantime, we are aiming to give your children the best education as always and therefore the following will continue:

- Visits by the therapy and school nursing teams
- Attendance of Kingfisher staff at internal and external meetings where appropriate

If your child has an underlying health condition, I would strongly advise you to seek medical advice before sending them to school. Many of our parents have taken the decision to keep their children at home. Please continue to let school know the reasons why your child is absent, so we have an accurate record of the current situation.

Please ensure that your contact details are up to date with the school office and that someone is available at the end of a phone should we need to reach you.

The following guidelines have been released about self-isolation. 'Living with someone with symptoms' is a risk to our pupils and staff, please find Government recommendations here. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

In essence, the guidelines are

- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

As stated in the previous letter, we have no plans to close our school unless we are directed to by Public Health England, the Government or in consultation with the Local Authority. However, following risk assessments, if staffing levels become at a ratio that we deem to be unsafe for your children in school, we may have to close some classes or indeed the whole school. This decision would not be taken lightly. Your children's health and safety is our priority.

As this letter was about to be printed it has been announced that there will be an announcement from **Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP**, Secretary of State for Education at 5pm. In the meantime there is an orange alert section at the top of home page of the website. We aim to keep you informed here.

Yours sincerely



Lorraine Wilson

Headteacher

### Our Kingfisher View

Kingfisher-a place where everyone is valued to develop independence through an enriching curriculum which is worthwhile

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