

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are facing a grave and unprecedented threat because of the coronavirus, so far 335 of our compatriots have died, 54 of them in the last 24 hours. Extreme situations require extreme measures and I am sure that many of you have just seen the statement delivered by our Prime Minister. I have set out the key message below.

*So it's vital to slow the spread of the disease. Because that is the way we reduce the number of people needing hospital treatment at any one time, so we can protect the NHS's ability to cope - and save more lives, and that's why we have been asking people to stay at home during this pandemic. And though huge numbers are complying - and I thank you all - the time has now come for us all to do more.*

*From this evening I must give the British people a very simple instruction - you must stay at home. Because the critical thing we must do is stop the disease spreading between households. That is why people will only be allowed to leave their home for the following very limited purposes:*

- *shopping for basic necessities, as infrequently as possible*
- *one form of exercise a day - for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household;*
- *any medical need, to provide care or to help a vulnerable person; and*
- *travelling to and from work, but only where this is absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home.*

*That's all - these are the only reasons you should leave your home.*

This is in addition to the new guidance issued yesterday states:

***Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.***

Therefore, if you can safely manage your child at home, I would strongly urge you to do so. This not only reduces the risk of contracting the virus, it will also reduce the risk of spreading it too. However, this decision may well be taken out of your hands as I may decide to close the school to most pupils, today we had 40 pupils attend. We simply cannot safely experience social distancing in our setting. These decisions have been communicated and agreed with our Chair of Governors and will further consult with Oxfordshire County Council tomorrow. The Senior Leadership Team will be meeting tomorrow to further assess the situation. Please do not call the office unless it is an emergency, we will continue to update you on the website and via parentmail.

Yours faithfully



Lorraine Wilson

Headteacher

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