



Coronavirus Update

There has been much speculation in the parental community as to the possible impact of a more extensive outbreak of the Coronavirus here in the UK. This is an unusual time for us all and we must all work together during this uncertain time. It is important that we act on facts so here are some facts and implications from the information which we have received daily from Public Health England:

1. **Is the school closing soon? No.** We have heard much speculation that the school will close on date X or Y. **This is not true.** Any decision to close schools will be taken by the Government and this is not currently planned.
2. **Is my child safe at school? Yes.** We have no reports of children displaying symptoms. Globally, the virus in children has been very mild (with some showing no symptoms at all). However, they do make perfect carriers, **so training your child to wash their hands (20 seconds with soap and hot water) and cough into their elbow is important. Additional handwashing on entering school, before snack time and lunchtime and after playtimes will be actioned.**
3. **What happens if there is a case in the school?** It is almost certain that sooner or later there will be a case in school. The current advice is that schools will stay open (extra cleaning measures have already been put in place).
4. **What happens if my child has symptoms?** If your child has a fever or new continuous cough, you should follow the latest medical advice and self-isolate. **Do not send your child into school for 5 school days.** Parents of children who are ill or self-isolating only need to call school to report absence on the first day however, we may give you a call in the week just to check in.
5. **How will this impacted on my child's attendance record?** Children that have been in contact with someone who has a confirmed case of Covid 19 and need to self-isolate will be coded as Y, children who are ill will be coded as I (ill), children who are self-isolating will be coded as C (authorised for 5 days). NO attendance action will be taken over absence linked to the current pandemic. As parents you are best placed to decide if your child is well enough to attend school or if they are an infection risk to others.
6. **Will school trips be cancelled?** Trips this side of Easter, bar local walking trips, have all been cancelled by the venues so this decision is out of our hands. We will begin the process of refunding any money as soon as possible.
7. **Will school gatherings be postponed?** Some. We are currently looking at the school calendars and considering each event against the latest guidance. Our aim will be to reduce opportunities to spread infection including to staff so that we can continue to operate as normal.
8. **What if a parent gets symptoms?** If you as a parent has symptoms (a new persistent cough or fever) then you should look at the NHS website <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> and follow the advice to isolate yourself for 7 days. **Please let us know if this is the case.** The current guidance is that children can keep coming to school if this is the case, but please check the NHS website as this might change.

9. **What happens if the school is forced to close?** As this remains a possibility, the school has begun making contingency plans should this happen.
10. **What should I tell my child about this outbreak?** It is important that we, as the adults, do all we can to make sure that children don't worry or become anxious about this virus. After all, this is not a virus which makes children particularly ill. So we as adults should do our best to stop our children worrying by reassuring them and answering any questions, but not giving them too much information which would cause them to worry.
11. **How can parents help?** Parents can help by limiting face-to-face contact with the school unless absolutely necessary. Any meetings or queries that can take place over the phone or via email will help keep staff and parents virus free.
12. **Can my child bring in hand sanitiser from home?** There is plenty of soap in school and all children will wash hands throughout the day. However, if parents feel they need to provide extra hand sanitiser they are free to do so.

We are all working hard to keep everybody safe. We are looking at all the information available and are following advice. We will ALWAYS put our community's safety first and believe that we are doing all the right things at this point in this outbreak. So for now it's business as usual.

I will keep you all updated as we receive further information and as the situation progresses. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Kind regards



Mr R Newman

Executive Headteacher



www.kingsforestschoo.co.uk
01454 866466



www.staplehillsschool.co.uk
01454 867240

