



Dear Parent / Carer,

## **Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed and been up dated.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

### **What's the current situation?**

#### ***New guidance for households with symptoms***

Yesterday, the Government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- If you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started
- If you live with others and you or another member of the household 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.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

**The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by ringing the main school office for each site or leaving a voicemail.

#### **What we are doing next:**

In addition to our previous actions we now ask ;

- Parents to increase their social distancing from school and no longer enter the main buildings to collect, children will be released to parents by admin staff.
- We have cancelled all sporting events including swimming lessons.
- As of today we will be cancelling Parents Evening and any future planned parent meetings: if you require a meeting with staff to discuss your child or their work we ask that you telephone school and hold a telephone meeting.
- Check our school website : Our school website has been updated on each class page with a list of links which allow access to educational resources. These do not necessarily need to be printed but require mobile device access. Updates will continue over the next week. We are currently

preparing home packs for all classes including some basic resources. We will advise on how parents can collect these by the end of the week.

[www.leadgate.durham.sch.uk](http://www.leadgate.durham.sch.uk)

### What we need you to do:

- › If you have not already updated any recent changes to your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email or telephone.
- › Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.
- › Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).

### What happens if the school has to close?

#### **We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.**

As the isolation measures continue to impact on the school staff our operational ability to remain open will be impacted. In light of this, we are currently working through our 4 phase action plan to communicate with the whole school community, review operations and teaching and put in place contingency measures to remain open. Included within these are potential measures to amalgamate classes, cease non statutory functions such as Nursery classes and potentially reduce operational hours, among others – all these options will impact on the quality of education we can sustain and we appreciate your understanding in this difficult and extraordinary time. Should we be unable to maintain operational we will however, as a final result, close the school

In either case, we'll:

- Alert parents to the closure, via our school app, text message and a post on our website
- We will let parents know when the school will be reopened by using the same communications
- We are currently making plans for supporting your child's education should a closure become necessary and will keep you informed on this including access to all online platforms we currently use in school alongside providing tasks and work on our school website in each class section.

**Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.**

We continue to follow guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, but this is being updated regularly in response to the changing situation (see DfE Guidance on our School Website NEWS section). We will monitor and follow the national guidance as it is updated and would urge you to do the same.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact both myself and deputies on each site.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely



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