



Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: Covid-19 update

As the Coronavirus continues to dominate our news headlines, we would just like to assure you that we are taking our responsibilities very seriously and managing the developments around COVID-19 in a way that is proportionate, calm and informed by following the guidance provided by Public Health England, NHS and the Department for Education.

Managing Isolation

We are open and operating as normal. However, in order to do all we can to protect everyone's health in a sensible, yet proactive way, we are taking the following precautions: We ask that if your child appears unwell (new cough) and/or has a temperature of 38°C or above, please report their absence to us but do not bring them into school; we advise that you contact NHS111 for further advice. We also ask that you report any symptoms/outcomes to us immediately, so that we can monitor and manage the risk effectively. To be clear, this is not so that we can advise you whether to keep your child off school; you **must** make this decision based on advice from NHS Direct. We will not be setting work for any children who are unwell, including those with symptoms of COVID-19; this is normal practice. If your child or any member of your immediate family is diagnosed with COVID-19, you must inform us at the earliest opportunity. Please also do so if your child has come into contact with anyone with a diagnosis so we can monitor the situation. Absences will be recorded in line with guidance received.

If a child becomes ill at school, we will treat this as any other illness and contact parents immediately, whilst supervising them away from the classroom until they are collected.

We are talking to our children about the importance of handwashing and teaching them to wash their hands thoroughly and regularly. We have also introduced staggered lunchtimes across the school and limited numbers in assemblies. Further to this, we have increased our cleaning procedures.

Parents' Evening and all other events for the foreseeable future (eg stay and play, Y4 performances etc): cancelled

In our efforts to protect your child, we are also restricting the exposure of children to large numbers of visitors to the school, including outside of normal school hours. Mini-reports will be sent as usual this week, despite the parents' evening being cancelled.

Condoover – as the situation currently stands, the advice is that all school visits, including residentials, continue as normal. Clearly this situation could change in the coming days. We will send a letter out separately with regard to this, but we more than understand if parents wish to withdraw their child. We need to be clear that unless we are directed to cancel from the government, the provider will not offer refunds, and parents must understand that they will forfeit the full cost of the visit.

Extra-curricular clubs: we will aim to continue to offer clubs as normal, however, please be mindful that these could be cancelled with short notice due to staff absence and any changing situation. Please ensure you have made arrangements as a precaution. This is in an attempt to keep things as normal as possible for the children. If your child will not be attending, please inform the office as soon as possible.

School Closures

There are two scenarios for school closure, either enforced nationally or a local closure. A local closure could occur because we do not have staffing to keep children safe or if we were to have a wider outbreak of illness amongst our children. If the school was closing, we would notify you by text, email and a notice would be displayed on our website at the earliest opportunity. It goes without saying that you should keep your communication details up to date with us. We have a number of contingency plans in place for closure, including continuing to support your child's education. This will be through a mix of paper-based on e-learning learning opportunities, which is why it **is essential that all Early Years and KS1 parents check their access to Google Classroom, as requested last week.** Please do not be concerned if you think your child will have limited access to devices, as we understand this may be a difficulty for some families.

Further Information

For your information, we have listed below the links to some resources that you might find useful. This includes information on the Coronavirus, the Government and international response and how best to talk about the outbreak with your children.

[NHS Coronavirus overview](#)

[UK Government Coronavirus updates](#)

[NHS 111 advice service](#)

[World Health Organisation updates](#)

[Foreign & Commonwealth Office travel advice](#)

[Department for Education advice for schools](#)

[Child Mind: How to talk to children about the outbreak](#)

[BBC: How to talk to children about the outbreak](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

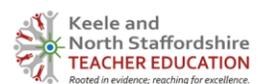
IMPORTANT: Attendance – attendance at school this term has been absolutely superb, with us matching and exceeding our target of 97% every week since our return in January. We had promised the children that if we continued to do so until Easter there would be a whole school treat. Clearly, we are not going to manage to stay at/above target with the current situation, but we do feel that the children absolutely deserve that treat, and we very much want to spread some happiness in these turbulent times. **Tomorrow, Tuesday 17th March, will be a whole school PJs/non-uniform day and a treat afternoon in light of this.** Some may think taking the time to have an afternoon off-timetable is an unusual choice when school closures and the like are being muted, but our children are hearing lots of ‘bits’ of information which is causing worry; we believe part of our role is continue to embrace their childhood and if this helps to keep children as children, this is time well spent.

Please be advised that we will continue to monitor the situation and government updates. If you have any questions, then please don't hesitate to get in touch. We appreciate that you may be worried, but we would ask that you do not listen to gossip around any absences – those of pupils or staff; scaremongering is not helpful, and we will share all necessary information with you, as directed by the relevant authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Mitchell and Mrs J Harrison

‘Working together to be the best we can’



Executive Head Teacher: Mrs. S. Mitchell

Head of School: Mrs. J. Harrison