



13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the spread of the coronavirus in the UK increases, the school is vigilant to all the advice we receive daily from Public Health England and the Local Authority. We continue to maintain a strong focus on handwashing with the children and staff and promote the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' motto for coughs and sneezes. We will also be screening visitors to the school, before allowing them to enter the building.

Currently, as far as we are aware, there are no confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Perton, however, there are cases in within Shropshire, Staffordshire and Wolverhampton. Furthermore, we are conscious that the spread of the virus is not something that we can accurately predict, so we must stay very alert to changes. That may mean that, over the coming weeks, we will have to make decisions quickly to reflect the current situation and advice given from Public Health England or the Department for Education.

We will be contacting trip venues and insurance companies to be reassured that they have plans in place that mean we can continue with planned events safely. As it stands today, we are able to continue with public events and trips as normal; however, **we must stress that this could change at very short notice.**

Please ensure that we have your most up-to-date contact details (telephone and email) and please check your text messages and Marvellous Me or Tapestry messages each day to be sure that you have the latest information from us.

For the moment though, we want day-to-day school life to remain as normal as possible for our children and we ask you support us with this. If you feel your child has symptoms described in the link overleaf, particularly a raised temperature and/or dry cough or shortness of breath or you have been contact with anyone who has recently visited one of the countries listed on the link overleaf, please follow the attached guidance before sending them to school.

In line with the advice that we have received, we are making preparations in case the situation should arise that we have to close the school. Please note that this would not be the Principal's decision, but would be at the direction of Public Health England or the Local Authority. Teachers are being asked to ensure that they create activities for the children to do at home with the help of online resources and subscriptions. If your child does not have access to a computer/tablet for such activities, please inform your child's teacher immediately so that alternative arrangements can be planned for. This may also involve communication via your email address.

As a school, we are trying to take informed actions so that we can continue to serve our children and their families as well as we can during this challenging time.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs N Ives (*Acting Deputy Principal*)

Advice & guidance

The Governments latest guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Guidance for those travelling or living overseas:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

The Public Health England has also put together this helpful Q&A resource:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know>

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email:

DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)