



Tuesday 17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus Update

Following on from our letter dated 15 March we are sure that you are aware that yesterday the Government in conjunction with Public Health England announced some revised guidance to deal with COVID-19.

As before, the advice remains that effective hand hygiene and using a tissue when coughing or sneezing are some of the most effective ways in which we can all help reduce the spread of the virus. The school is continuing to do all that it can to minimise the spread with good hygiene and is following all the advice from Public Health England and Herts County Council and as such we believe there is no additional risk to children and staff by their attendance at school. It would be helpful if you could reiterate this advice at home.

We are continuing to ensure that all visitors entering the school use hand sanitizer or wash their hands immediately on passing through the foyer into the main building.

Non-essential social contact

The advice regarding non-essential social contact has changed. In order to support this, the school has taken the following actions:

- Assemblies have been suspended
- All clubs have been suspended
- Sports fixtures have been suspended
- All but essential visits to school by parents should be avoided other than drop off and pick up
- Parent volunteers have been suspended

We have taken the decision to postpone a variety of school events:

Foundation Stage open morning.....Week beginning 23 March
Yr 4 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum.....Wednesday 25 March
Yr 4 Residential meetingWednesday 25 March
Parent Consultations.....Tuesday 31 March and Wednesday 1 April

We will ensure that the powerpoint that we intended to use for the Year 4 Residential meeting will go onto the Year 4 section of the school website shortly.

Self-isolation and staying at home

As you are aware, the Government in conjunction with Public Health England has widened their advice on who should self-isolate. **If anyone in your family has coronavirus like symptoms ie a new or continuous dry cough or a high temperature (37.8 degrees), however mild, the whole family should stay at home self-isolating for at least 14 days to protect others and help slow the spread of the disease.**

All our staff will be expected to follow this advice, and we ask you to ensure that you and your family do so too. If your children are absent from school because they are ill please continue to call or email admin@greenway.herts.sch.uk explaining why they are absent from school.

Absences

Absences will now be authorised in the following instances:

- For any pupil involved in household isolation
- For any pupil with an underlying medical condition (at risk) who has been advised by their clinician to stay at home
- For any pupil with a household member who has an underlying medical condition and has received advice that all household members should restrict contact

The possibility of School Closure

Should the school be required to close this may be on a full or partial basis dependent on staff health eg open to certain year groups only or government/Public Health England advice. We will continue to keep you informed in this respect. We continue to be mindful of the problems that some families may face as a result of the school closure.

Home Learning

There has been an increase in pupil non-attendance due to the situation in which we all find ourselves. We are very grateful to all staff for continuing to manage a very difficult changing situation, calmly and professionally on a daily basis.

The school has had a number of emails from parents asking teachers to send work home for absent pupils. Whilst we do understand parental concerns, we do not believe that it is reasonable to expect teachers to do this in addition to what they are already doing - this may of course extend to covering for absent colleagues in the days to come. Therefore, no home learning will be set on an individual basis.



We are planning for home learning should the school close and believe this to be our priority at the current time. Home learning will be accessible to parents for each year group, if the school has to close and this will be communicated to you as and when this situation arises.

Communication

Communication will continue through the school's usual channels and we would ask that all stakeholders ensure we have their correct, updated contact details. We would also ask that any communication with the school regarding coronavirus is limited to informing us of any changes to your child's/family's health, particularly in relation to their attendance. As we are sure you will appreciate, the changing situation requires school leaders to prioritise responses to national advice and contingency planning, and therefore, the school will not be able to respond to individual emails of a general nature regarding the situation.

Obviously, we will continue to provide updates as the situation continues to develop. We would draw your attention to the following Government guidance which advises those who are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (a list of specific illnesses is mentioned) to be particularly stringent in social distancing measures) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

We thought it might be helpful to provide you with extracts from two documents that have been circulated to school leaders:

1. Summary of Advice from Government Guidance on Social Distancing – 16 March 2020
2. Extract from World Health Organisation 'Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools ' - March 2020

Thank you for your continued support and understanding in these challenging and ever changing circumstances.

Regards

Katharine Ellwood
Headteacher

Elizabeth O'Reilly
Chair of Governors

