



WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
Woden Avenue, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 1PW
Telephone: (01902) 556350 Email: office@wodensfield.org
Headteacher: Mrs. S. Walker

Date: 17th March 2020

Ref: SWa/LGr

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: School information regarding coronavirus

As you will probably be aware, the Government response to the coronavirus outbreak has now moved to the 'delay' phase, and I felt it might be helpful to update you with our arrangements here at Wodensfield School.

Importantly, the school continues to follow Government advice and will remain open unless directed otherwise by the Government or Public Health England.

Although it is now Government advice that school trips abroad should be cancelled until further notice, trips in this country can currently go ahead as planned, unless we receive advice to the contrary. Our risk assessments will be updated before each planned trip to include more detailed advice from Public Health England. We will keep you informed about any changes to our plans.

The most important change to guidance announced by the Government last week is that anyone who has symptoms of a coronavirus infection – a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature (37.8 degrees centigrade or higher) – must stay at home for fourteen days from the point that their symptoms first started.

I would therefore ask that if your child develops a dry cough or has a raised temperature that you keep them at home for fourteen days. Their absence will be recorded as illness, not as an unauthorised absence.

Your child probably won't have coronavirus, but if they do, by keeping them home you will help to protect others in the school and the wider community while they are potentially infectious.

You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation, and do not go to your GP or hospital. If your child's symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after seven days, contact NHS 111 online at <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>. If you have no internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

You will appreciate that as a school we must do all we can to look after the health and wellbeing of our children. If a pupil falls ill during the school day with either a continuous cough or a high temperature, we will send them home to self-isolate as a precaution as per the guidance above. Should this be required, we would appreciate the support of the child's parents in ensuring this happens as quickly as possible.

We anticipate that some pupils will be absent from school over the next few weeks with potential symptoms of coronavirus. While it is important to remember that these could equally be symptoms of one of the many winter illnesses which we usually expect to see at this time of year, it is important we act with caution.



In school, we are continuing to promote 'hand hygiene' with everyone being encouraged to regularly wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual, with soap and hot water or hand sanitiser. To reduce the spread of germs when children cough or sneeze, they are asked to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue (or their sleeve, but not their hands, if they don't have a tissue) and to throw the tissue away immediately. We have been promoting these hygiene measures using Government approved e-Bug teaching resources.

Our school cleaning routine has been adjusted with a thorough clean of all surfaces with an approved sanitiser spray taking place at the end of each working day. A clear desk policy, including the children's tables, has been implemented so that the spray can have most impact. Door handles are also being wiped regularly throughout the school day.

Looking ahead, should schools be forced to close, teachers have planned learning tasks that the children will be able to complete at home. We will share these with you if and when this happens – though as I stressed earlier, the school will remain open unless directed otherwise by the Government or Public Health England.

If you would like more information about Coronavirus, please visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus or www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/coronavirus. Parents can also call the Department for Education coronavirus helpline for general advice and guidance by calling 0800 046 8687 between 8.00am to 6.00pm (Monday to Friday) or e-mailing: dfc.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk.

Further reminders and information to parents:

- Please ensure that school has your current contact details and that your MME app is live
- As further precautionary measures, we are restricting external visitors to those considered essential. This also includes parent volunteers and students
- All classrooms are well ventilated with doors open to limit contact
- Assemblies both in school and for parents/carers to attend are suspended
- All staff led clubs i.e. Crochet, Gymnastics will cease until further notice from Friday 20th March 2020
- Stay and Play sessions will cease until further notice
- Karate and Aspire will continue until week ending 27th March 2020
- Breakfast and afterschool club will be monitored and if we need to close you will be contacted via text message
- Reception Class trip to the Think Tank Museum (26.03.20) and Year 2s trip to the Sea Life Centre (31.03.20) will be postponed until further notice
- In the unfortunate event that schools are instructed to close, the following will be in place:
 - School website will have year group files where daily English and Maths activities will be uploaded
 - Activities that do not require internet access will be sent home with every child
 - Two reading books will be sent with every child

And finally

For many of us, this is an entirely new situation that we are dealing with. We are doing our best to make the right decision for the whole of our school community, taking advice from the DFE, Public Health England, the Local Authority and other nearby schools. Our resources will be stretched for some time so please direct any serious concerns to myself but do please allow good time to respond. Please do not publicise any concerns on social media – we are doing our very best to protect you and your children and appreciate all of your understanding and support. Thank you for your continued support.

S Walker

S. Walker (Mrs)
Headteacher

