



Monday 16th March

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to thank you all for your continued understanding and sense of calm regarding the Coronavirus.

You will be aware from the government announcements last week; we have moved from the contain phase to the delay phase of the Covid-19 / Coronavirus strategy.

We have had no known cases of the Covid-19 virus within our school community but we are taking precautions as outlined by the government and Public Health England in their recent announcements and we are happy that there is no need for us to take any further action.

We continue to be vigilant with cleanliness and ensuring all staff are aware of the symptoms and latest advice. I will update you if there is any further information I need to share.

The most up to date advice is found at:

Updates on COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Guidance for educational settings:

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

The advice is to self-isolate if you or your child display any one of more of the symptoms which are

Self-Isolation

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The advice is to self-isolate if you or your child display any one of more of the symptoms which are:

- **New continuous** cough
- High temperature (over 37.8)(Hot to touch on the chest or back)
- Shortness of breath – likely to follow after the first 2 symptoms

We understand that at this time of year there are also many colds and bugs around so your judgement will be needed using the advice given.

The self-isolation period is for 7 days unless symptoms worsen, in which case the individual should call NHS 111. Please inform the school as soon as possible that you are isolating your child, if after 7 days they are no longer displaying symptoms they can return to school. Likewise, if we are concerned about a child's health, in school, we will contact their parents immediately.

Students with low immunity

- On Tuesday Public Health England released guidance on what parents/carers can do if children have medical/auto immune issues

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Messing Primary School

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- Students need to go to their GP to ask the GP to write a letter for the school to prove that he/she is at more risk than other children.
- This only allows the student to be out of school for 7 days if their doctor states they are more at risk than anyone else.
- If a student is out of school without a doctor's note, then it is an unauthorised absence.

I have looked at the events which are coming up in school and will inform you on an ongoing basis if any are cancelled. At the moment there are no restrictions on public gatherings. (This may change in the future) However, because of our limited facilities and school building size **we have decided to cancel 'Share and learn'** this week as this involves large numbers of us at school at once. (We usually have the whole school community in school for this) It is a confined space and the practicalities of all visitors to the school washing their hands is not possible given our facilities.

If you have any queries I will do my best to answer them. Please rest assured we will continue to keep you informed. It is a changing landscape and we appreciate you working with us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jackie Halliday
Headteacher