

A letter from our Headteachers Polly and Fiona

Friday 13th March 2020: Update regarding Covid-19

We are sure most of you will have seen that the national advice relating to Coronavirus changed yesterday as the Prime Minister announced that we are moving from a containment strategy to one of delay. As such we wanted to issue you this morning with the latest advice for educational settings which we will follow.

The significant change is to how we manage ourselves if we present symptoms of a high fever or a new and continuous cough.

If an individual (pupil or member of staff) is experiencing symptoms which include a high temperature or a continuous cough, then they must stay at home (self-isolate) for seven days. This is the new advice from NHS 111 and Public Health England. If the symptoms persist past seven days the parent or carer should contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If the parent or carer does not have internet access, they should call NHS 111. If, after seven days, the individual feels better and no longer has a high temperature, they can return to their normal routine.

For those individuals who have had exposure to a confirmed case but have shown no symptoms, self-isolation is for 14 days. The 14 days represents the potential incubation period (the time it takes for symptoms to show if you have been infected), therefore for these individuals they will need to self-isolate.

Key to preventing the spread of Coronavirus is good personal hygiene and as such we will maintain good hand washing practices and thorough cleaning regimes.

The safety of our pupils and staff remains our utmost priority. We will continue to monitor national and local advice and ensure we act accordingly to maintain safety in school. We are focussing on providing a normal learning environment, with more hand washing than is perhaps normal. Some children may be aware of the existence of the virus through the media. Teachers will be spending time discussing the issue in an age appropriate way with their classes if necessary.

We also want to inform you of a few decisions that we have made in light of the recent advice:

1. As of today we have postponed all but essential school trips.
2. **We have decided to postpone the Parent Meetings sessions arranged for the coming weeks: Phase 1 and 2 on Tuesday 17th - Thursday 19th March and Year 8's on Wednesday 25th March.** We will schedule new dates as soon as we have more certainty about the situation.
3. We will still allow 'trips in' to the school, by this we mean the activities that happen on a weekly basis that seek to enrich the curriculum. We will, however, insist that these organisations have effective control procedures in place.

4. We will also postpone the end of term visit by parents to look at learning.

We have not taken these steps lightly, and hope that these actions will reassure you. The safety and wellbeing of your children continues to be our number one priority and we will continue to follow all official advice from Public Health England, the Department for Education, and our local council.

Please ensure your contact details are up to date by contacting parents@psca.co.uk. As we may need to contact you as this situation develops.

If you have any concerns, worries or questions, please do contact parents@psca.co.uk or telephone 01752 221927.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Kelly

Polly Lovell

Primary Head Teacher

Secondary Head Teacher