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Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to our daily bulletin regarding the current COVID 19 situation. As you will no doubt have seen on the news over the last 24 hours the Government has taken the decision to advise the following (as detailed on [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)):

- Everyone should avoid gatherings and crowded places, such as pubs, clubs and theatres.
- Everyone should work from home if they can.
- All "unnecessary" visits to friends and relatives in care homes should cease.
- People should only use the NHS "where we really need to" - and can reduce the burden on workers by getting advice on the NHS website where possible.
- By next weekend, those with the most serious health conditions must be "largely shielded from social contact for around 12 weeks".
- If one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days.
- Those people should, if possible, avoid leaving the house "even to buy food or essentials" - but they may leave the house "for exercise and, in that case, at a safe distance from others".
- ***Schools will not be closed for the moment.***

Unfortunately, all we are able to do at the moment is to follow Government advice and ***we have no choice other than to remain open until we are instructed to close.*** However teaching unions have met the Education Secretary, Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP, and indicated that it is 'likely' a number of schools will be forced to close due to a lack of staff.

It is probable that in the coming days that there will be fewer members of staff than is normally the case and certainly fewer children, as we have already noticed. It is therefore possible that children may be taught in mixed classes during this time of uncertainty.

We would like to reassure you that we are doing everything possible to look after the health and safety of the children and staff in the school, which is why we are ensuring that everyone follows the Government's advice if they report any of the

symptoms of the virus. For your information, we have been issued with new absence codes to use during this time and have been advised that any absence due to 'self-isolation' will not be counted in the normal way and therefore will not affect your child's absence level.

If you have any questions at all please contact us and we will answer your questions as openly and honestly as we can. We feel that it is better for you to have the answers directly from us, (rather than second hand, which may lead to incorrect assumptions being made); as we are able to give you the up to the minute advice and information that we have been given. We obviously cannot answer specific questions about individual people as this would breach their personal data rights and we are sure that you will understand this.

Finally we would like to remind you that current Government advice is:

If you or your children are displaying symptoms of COVID19 please stay at home for the recommended time, currently 14 days (this has doubled since yesterday), and keep yourself informed of the latest Government advice.

Thank you for taking the time to read another lengthy letter, but we want to ensure you are kept as up to date as possible at this time.

Yours faithfully



Nicola Brosnan

Acting Head Teacher