



Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you will be aware, **should anyone who lives in your household** present with a persistent cough or a temperature (37.8 degrees) they and their family members should now **self-isolate for fourteen days**. This is updated guidance from Public Health England (PHE) as of 16th March 2020.

Currently we have two teachers (from the same household) self-isolating as a precaution. We also have three Teaching Assistants who this applies to. Additionally, as pregnant women are urged to follow advice on 'social distancing,' Mrs Duncan (Deputy Headteacher) will be working from home.

We absolutely recognise the differing thoughts, feelings and concerns about this situation but **all schools must follow government guidelines and instructions from Public Health England and the Department for Education** in considering whether pupils or staff should come to school.

In view of the current situation with COVID-19, we feel it necessary to **suspend our before school, lunchtime and after school clubs from tomorrow (Wednesday 18th) until further notice**, and certainly until the end of this half term. Due to the smaller numbers of children attending, and the large open area that this is situated in, **we will continue to run Hedgerows**. However, we will review this decision early next week and update parents.

A number of events/activities planned for the remaining weeks of this half term are also now cancelled or postponed. **The following will no longer go ahead:**

Parents Coffee and Information Session - Wednesday 18th March

PTA Discos – Thursday 19th March and Thursday 2nd April

Odd Socks Day Bake Sale – Friday 20th March

Reception trip to Bocketts Farm – Wednesday 1st April

Year 6 Strictly Come Dancing Showcase – Wednesday 1st April

Spring Assembly and Easter Hat Parade – Thursday 2nd April

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Obviously this is such a changeable situation so it is impossible to say which of these are able to be rescheduled for a later date or how and when any external club providers might make up missed sessions, if indeed this is possible. **We are mindful that most of the companies we utilise for our extra-curricular activities are small businesses who will be greatly affected by COVID-19, so ask for parents' support and understanding in this matter. We will obviously continue to review all our activities planned for after the Easter break and update parents accordingly.**

In addition to the measures above, **we are also now running all assemblies within individual classrooms** rather than in key stages, across cohorts or as whole school assemblies. Children will still enjoy the sharing of stories, discussion and time for reflection as our assemblies are planned in advance against a schedule with differing themes, each accessible in every classroom.

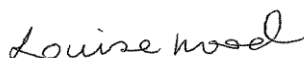
As described in previous letters, **we remain vigilant in reminding children to wash their hands**, regularly demonstrating how to do this effectively. Hand wash and hand sanitiser is provided in each classroom and each class has established routines for these.

With regards to home learning, work is already underway to ensure that activities are provided for children to access at home. Prior to the announcements made on Friday and yesterday, we had originally planned to share these resources with you in the event of schools closing. **However, now that we have a number of children having to stay at home, we will update you on this as soon as we are able to; certainly by tomorrow. Please bear with us.**

There is no doubt that these are concerning times but we are doing our best to ensure that the children continue to enjoy their learning and life at school is as 'normal' as it can be.

Thank you for your ongoing support and keep well.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Wood".

Mrs Louise Wood

Headteacher