



16th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will now be aware, the coronavirus has now progressed to the delay stage and the government have issued a raft of measures to navigate us through this stage of the pandemic.

Measures include schools being urged not to close, unless advised to by Public Health, alongside the need for any staff and pupils with any of the symptoms outlined to self-isolate for 7 days.

This is still a fluid and evolving situation and it will remain that way for some time yet. With that in mind, I will endeavour to ensure parents and carers are kept up to date with the school's contingency plans as we respond to national directives and to reassure you that we are taking considerable steps to contain the virus.

Guidance will, of course, be monitored closely, and our plans will be adapted accordingly, in line with Government and Public Health advice.

Good hygiene remains key and, while we will continue to speak to all pupils daily to reinforce messages in relation to good hygiene, we would appreciate your support with reinforcing these messages at home.

Additional steps to contain the virus include:

- Considerably more hand sanitisers in the school;
- Regular refilling of soap dispensers in toilets;
- Asking pupils to wash their hands more frequently;
- Dispensing hand sanitiser in the dining room at lunch time and break times;
- As per usual, all keyboards, door handles and surfaces are wiped daily with anti-bacterial spray;
- Tissues are now provided in all classrooms/work areas;
- Hygiene guidance is displayed on the back of every toilets;
- Assemblies to reinforce key messages.

We understand that you will also be concerned about any disruption to your child's learning if the government deem that schools should close, or if your child needs to self-isolate.

In school, in preparation for either of these events occurring, we are asking all pupils with a smart phone and internet access at home to download the Microsoft TEAMS app. The TEAMS app will contain resources and tasks for every pupil to complete across every subject. It will allow pupils to upload photographs of their work and will also allow feedback from staff to be given to pupils on their work where appropriate.

Through year group assemblies, we have also thoroughly explained the instructions on how to use the TEAMS app and access work. Extra guidance for parents on how to access TEAMS and view the work set for each pupil will be available on the school website.



Each pupil has been issued with two exercise books in which they will be required to complete tasks for each subject. For those families without internet access, work will be issued on paper and pupils can complete the work in their exercise books.

As you will appreciate this is a very fluid situation, but rest assured that we are working closely with Public Health and government agencies and will keep you informed of any developments.

Communication to parents will continue to be made via the MyEd app and text alerts, and we will be posting updates as we receive them with relevant information on our website.

In the meantime, we will have to take each day as it comes and adapt our robust contingency plans accordingly. I will continue to keep you all updated and thank-you for your continued support in such difficult times.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mo Wilkinson', is written below the text 'Best wishes,'.

Mo Wilkinson