



17th March 2020

Dear parents and carers

After what has been a very anxious weekend for everyone, I would like to keep you informed about what is happening in school. Schools remain open for the moment and we will continue to keep Springfield open until we are told otherwise. We understand that some of you feel strongly that schools should close and understand why you feel this should happen. However, this is not my decision to make. The advice from the Department of Education as of today is:

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

We want our school to continue to be a place where children feel safe, where they can continue to enjoy learning and where we can reassure them if they feel worried. We also know that keeping schools open ensures that for the moment, parents, including those who work for the NHS, can go to work, children can continue to have a school dinner every day and we can support families who are in need of help.

At the moment, we ***have no confirmed cases of the virus in school.*** We do have a number of families who are self-isolating because they have developed symptoms, which may indicate they have caught the virus. We also have a number of children and staff who are not in school because they have a medical condition, which makes them more vulnerable.

We do know that the situation is likely to change over the next few days/weeks and we will let you know if we have any **confirmed cases** of the virus in school. For the moment, we ask that you do not send your child to school if they have a temperature or a new, continuous cough. Please also continue to remind your child daily about the importance of following strict hygiene procedures, including washing hands thoroughly with soap. We also ask that you make sure your child washes their hands before they leave for school in the morning and again when they come home. We will be calling parents and asking them to collect their children from school immediately if they become unwell in school, have a continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection.

We are making plans for what will happen if we do have to close. If staff become ill and have to self-isolate, we may need to close classes to ensure we have enough staff to cover. We may also need to consider whether we are able to run after school provision with fewer staff.

If we do have to close completely, we are currently thinking about how we could continue to ensure children are learning at home. The use of technology would play an important role in ensuring we can stay in touch and support families to continue to educate their children from home. We would communicate with you through our school website, Marvellous Me and through text messages. If we do not have the most up-to-date contact details for you, please make sure that Doreen has them as soon as possible. We would also like to understand how many children would not have access to

a tablet, computer or the internet and are asking that you return the slip below if you feel your child does not have access to the technology needed to view the school website or educational website.

During this very difficult time, please look out for each other, support each other as much as you can and know that as a school we will try to do everything possible to support our community. Do let us know immediately if you have contracted the virus so we can keep up-to-date with what is happening in our community and make the best decisions we can at this very difficult time.

Best wishes

Fiona

Please return this slip below if you think that your child doesn't have the technology at home to enable him/her to access the school website/educational sites. We may be able to offer support or lend equipment if this is the case. This includes if you have a number of children who all may need access to technology at once.

Child's name: _____ Year: _____

My child would not be able to access educational websites or the school's website from home. This is because:

We do not have access to the internet at home

My child does not have access to a computer or tablet

My child cannot access the internet because – add information below

Parent name: _____

