

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have been contacted by parents today who are concerned about their child coming to school in view of the threat of Covid19. As I have explained in previous correspondence, the school is currently following guidelines that are issued by the DfE and Public Health England and this is being updated on a regular basis.

Currently the advice states that the symptoms to look out for are a high temperature (above 38 degrees) and a dry cough. Frequent hand washing and general cleaning of surfaces should be adopted in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

If your child has the above symptoms and you believe that s/he may have contracted the virus, they should self-isolate for a 7 day period. However, second or third hand exposure does not necessitate isolation and therefore your child can come to school as normal.

In addition the DfE has issued advice on pupils with pre-existing medical conditions. In these cases parents will need to take their child to their GP to ask them to write a letter for the school to prove that s/he is at more risk than other children. This will enable their absence to be authorised for either 7 or 14 days. If a pupil is taken out of school without a doctor's note and without showing any symptoms of the virus, the absence will be unauthorised.

There are currently no plans for the Government to close schools in response to any suspected or confirmed cases unless they are specifically requested to do so by Public Health England.

I understand that this is a worrying time for everyone and would like to reassure you that we are taking every step to ensure that your children are safeguarded in school.

I will continue to update you if there is further information that I need to share and please check our website regularly for the most up to date guidance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Braithwaite
Acting Headteacher