



Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus Update: 17th March 2020

Following the most recent government advice and information, I want to reassure you that at Templemoor we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community. This letter aims to prepare you for any changes that the school may have to consider in the coming days and weeks ahead and includes what we expect from our parents and families to help make sure that our school community keeps safe and calm. **Please ensure that you read to the end of this communication.**

The current situation as of Tuesday 17th March 2020

The Government guidance now includes a greater emphasis on **family isolation**.

Anyone with a 'new continuous' cough and/ or a high temperature is advised to self-isolate.

If you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started.

If you live with others and **you or one of them** have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Essentially, we have been directed to send home any child or adult with a high temperature or new persistent cough. If this should happen, the advice is that family isolation should then follow for a period of 14 days, the period of isolation will be classed as an authorised absence from school.

Please **DO NOT** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You **DO NOT** need to contact 111 to tell them you are staying at home. Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you are staying at home.

Please make sure you keep to the advice that the Government have issued and let us know if your child is absent from school. If your child has a pre-existing medical condition which makes them more vulnerable to the Covid-19 virus, we would suggest that you contact your paediatrician or health team lead for specific advice. Please note that we are unable to offer any medical advice and we can only refer you back to the details in this letter.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Staff Absence

Isolation may affect children, parents and staff and therefore could affect the day-to-day running of the school. If or when we find ourselves in this situation, the following actions may be taken:

- Your child may have a different teacher / teaching assistant to support their learning.
- Putting classes together with shared staff.

- Dividing classes between teachers.
- Full or partial closure of the school (if staffing levels are too low to maintain safe ratios).

Currently the **school remains open** and this is the official guidance we've been given.

In the email sent out on Sunday, I outlined the actions we are already taking to increase hygiene and social distancing, including postponing all parents' evenings, school trips and school assemblies. Information has already been given to the children regarding the importance of handwashing and increased hygiene techniques at this time. Our premises are also being regularly cleaned.

What happens if we have to close the school?

Despite the announcement that schools will remain open for the time being, we are doing what we must, including preparing for a national closure. We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or if staffing levels are too low to maintain safe ratios. In either case, we will:

- Alert parents to closure, via a text message, email and a post on the school's website.
- We will provide regular updates and we will let parents know when the school will be reopened in the same way as closure.
- If an announcement of national school closures is made by the Government via the media, it is likely that some parents may be notified before the school is. However, we would be grateful if parents do not call the school at that time to ask for further information. We will need to use all our resources to prepare for closure and information will be sent through emails, text messages and the school website.

Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

- I have shared our current and ever changing action plan and risk assessment with the staff team and they have been planning home learning for the children, should we have to close. Work will not be sent home if your child needs to self-isolate before a closure.
- Work will be shared with all children via our school website. We have created a separate 'Home Learning' section on the website (under the 'Children' tab) and the work will be available in this section, should we be forced to close (this is not currently live).
- Your child will be given a mixture of phonics, reading, writing, mathematics and project based tasks to complete based on next term's curriculum.
- At the time of any closure, we will send the children home with any resources that may be relevant to their age or stage, including extra reading books, library books and a project book in which they can record the tasks.
- During a period of closure, all school email addresses will be monitored. This includes the office and my own account. We are happy to help where we can with specific questions you may have linked to your child. However, do bear in mind that the majority of our staff team have young families or dependants so we will do our very best to balance supporting our school community as well as our own family's needs.
- I have updated the school website and created a page on the Coronavirus under the tab, 'Our School', 'COVID-19'. I will use this page to store relevant useful information.

What actions do parents and families need to take at this time?

- Follow the Government guidance as outlined above.
- Make the school office aware if your child will not have access to a computer to complete some home learning tasks set online.
- Please make sure that we have your correct email address and contact numbers (only if you have recently changed these).



Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue. We politely ask that parents don't call school to ask our advice whether or not to bring your child in, we aren't healthcare professionals and can't make that decision.
- NHS, if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use NHS 111 online if at all possible before calling 111.
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools.
- Government's travel advice, if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead.

I would like to finish by thanking you all for your continued support of the staff team during this unprecedented time. It is hugely appreciated. It is a challenging time for us all, and I know that you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. Please rest assured that we are doing all that we can to keep your child's education in school as consistent as possible. It is so important that we keep each other safe and stay positive. Whatever challenges we may face in the next week or so, I feel confident that we will meet these together, utilising our unique Templemoor family team spirit.

With very best wishes,

S Hodgson

Mr Stuart Hodgson

Headteacher

