



Inspire to Aspire

Mercian Educational Trust
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Tuesday, 17 March 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update – Parents Message

Dear Parents,

With daily changes to precautions to delay the spread of Coronavirus I believe it is time to outline how we plan our schools to maintain pupil and family support in the event of a government closure of schools or a school closing due to a lack of staff.

The current guidance is for schools to remain open if they are operationally able to. We will endeavour to keep our schools open for as long as possible. Should staffing levels drop below a point where we can safely operate with all pupils in school, we will instigate a partial opening. This will mean the school will be open to certain classes / year groups or pupils. Your school will communicate this process to you as they adapt to individual circumstances.

Should any school need to close due to operational capacity a school closure procedure will commence. Details of this procedure will be on your school's website and communicated to you.

Learning - In the event of school closure, we will continue to support our pupils and families with learning. Schools have/are preparing activities for children to bring home and weekly learning opportunities will be published on each school website. We will keep our communication through email and twitter maintained. Examples of learning and kind acts would be warmly received through either.

At the time of writing this letter we still await information about possible changes to assessment timetables. We will communicate if/when information arrives. For the moment we will assume no changes are planned.

Staying in touch - Schools will be staffed with key personnel present only for essential duties. Should you need to contact the school during a closure you should do so through the main school email. Our school admin teams will be maintaining the emails and will forward all messages to staff.

Supporting families in need - The school catering companies are also determined to continue supporting families currently in receipt of Free School Meals. They have worked with school leaders to produce plans to ensure food can be distributed. If your children are entitled to Free School Meals please contact your school if you wish

to access this support. They will provide you with further information about their plan.

For families that we, and other agencies, support we make regular welfare check phone calls and begin 'door-step' visits at regular points. This will ensure our families are supported through the period of closure.

Staying Informed – The situation is constantly changing, and we strongly advise using government websites as your information sources. All MET schools obtain their information and follow guidance published by the Department of Education and Public Health England. Both are currently updated daily.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Today the government released new guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

There are a number of actions listed in this document but I will draw your attention to a particular point **“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”**

This is without doubt the most significant challenge we have faced in a generation. However, in times of adversity communities can pull together and emerge stronger than before. Through kindness, communication and cooperation we will pull through this together. Keep a helpful eye on the vulnerable members of the community, provide assistance where appropriate; ensure no one goes through this alone. Share positive actions and moments through social media; keep spirits up and hearts warm.

Yours sincerely



Dafydd Lawday
(Chief Executive Officer)

