



Head Teacher: Mrs. Ly Toom

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## **COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

### **Dear Parents and Carers**

As detailed in yesterday's update, the Government has significantly changed its advice regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). At this moment in time, schools are not being instructed to close and so we continue to try our best to maintain as normal a service as possible.

### **Vulnerable Adults and Pupils**

As I am sure you will be aware, Public Health England published guidance yesterday regarding the protection of older people and vulnerable adults.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Please read this advice carefully if you have not done so already and, considering the health of your child/children, use this information to decide whether they should be attending school or not. If you know that they fall into one of these groups and would be particularly at risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) please inform school that this is the reason for your child's absence.

Similarly, if there are vulnerable adults at home falling into one of the groups identified in the document above, and you think sending your child to school might pose a risk to them, we understand if you choose to keep your children at home whilst you seek further medical advice for the vulnerable adult. Please let us know by calling or emailing the office.

I am sure you will appreciate that we have also considered this guidance together with staff and, inevitably, this has impacted on our school staffing levels. Where cover arrangements have needed to be made, we have tried our best to provide the pupils with as much consistency as we possibly can.

### **Parents Evenings and Non-Essential Contact**

Under the circumstances, we have taken the decision to cancel our forthcoming parents evenings. Teachers will be sharing some progress information and targets with parents in the coming days. If you have any urgent issues to discuss with class teachers, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office - by telephone or email.





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We have also introduced additional measures to avoid non-essential contact, limiting time spent in larger groups (eg: assemblies) and reducing contact with adults from outside of the school community (eg: reading volunteers).

### **After School Clubs**

From next week, all extra-curricular clubs and activities will stop, until further notice. This includes those run by school staff as well as those run by private providers (including 1:1 and small group instrumental tuition). For the time-being, this does not affect ARK breakfast and after-school club, who are aiming to continue with their before and after school provision to support our working parents.

### **Staying Safe when Isolating!**

If you are self-isolating with your children because you are unwell and you live alone (or your partner is frequently out of the home), please practise with your child how and who they would phone if you were to become seriously unwell. You may choose to put emergency phone numbers of family or friends on the fridge or to store them as favourites in your mobile phone – however you feel this will be effective and appropriate for your child's age. Also, advice is to always notify friends and family that you are self-isolating so that they can check in with you to ensure you are all safe and well.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and consideration in response to this unique situation. We have been overwhelmed by your words of support and we will maintain a high level of contact with you as this situation unfolds. These are uncertain times and we are trying our best to keep up with events.

Please take care of yourself and your families.

Kindest regards

Ly Toom

