



Longparish C.E (Aided) School  
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17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents

**Re: Covid-19 update**

I am writing to give you further information about the Coronavirus and the possible effects on our school as a result of the Government's news conference last night.

**Self-isolation advice and absence**

Please carefully consider the implications to others when deciding whether to send your children to school. Please remember that the advice has changed. If a new cough, or a high temperature develops (not just a combination of these symptoms), then you and the members of the household **must** self-isolate. If a child presents with these symptoms at school, we will call you immediately to collect your child. **Please ensure that your contact details are fully up to date.**

The self-isolation period is a minimum of 14 days from the date that the first person becomes ill. **Pupils will not be penalised for absence for self-isolating.** Please email school office [adminoffice@longparish.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@longparish.hants.sch.uk) with details of your child's symptoms.

The NHS advice is as follows  
(refer to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>)

**How long to stay at home**

Please read carefully all the guidance in this link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

We have some children, staff and families who fall into the vulnerable categories. Please do not put others at risk. We are not medically trained, so we refer you to the above guidance to help you make the right decision for your family and the safety of others.

If you, your child or anyone in the same household has developed a new cough or a high temperature, you must self-isolate.



We will ask parents to collect any child from school who develop a new cough or high temperature that becomes apparent during the school day. Please ensure we can contact you immediately in such an emergency.

We will take similar steps if we learn that other family members have symptoms. This is to safeguard the health of all of our staff and children.

We continue to monitor and follow advice from Public Health England and the NHS.

### **Social media**

*Please be especially careful about what you post on social media.* If you have any concerns, please contact the school to check your facts before you post anything. Inaccurate and sensationalist posts can be very unhelpful, can cause anxiety and panic and divert school staff from their primary roles as they respond to panicked parents contacting us to verify or refute social media rumours.

At the time of writing, I can state that there are no confirmed cases of coronavirus for any children or staff who usually attend the school.

If a child is affected, communication will come from the school immediately.

### **Postponement and cancellation of school events**

In order to preserve staff's efforts in addressing our teaching and providing lessons, and to minimise all unnecessary risk, we are postponing **all** school events, church events and any sporting fixtures.

**All School clubs will cease until further notice from tomorrow.**

### **Parents' Evening – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

We will inform you nearer the time if these will go ahead.

### **School Meals**

Please read the attached copy of a letter from HC3S for your information.

### **School Closure – PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS BEFORE AND AT THE END OF EVERY SCHOOL DAY**

Please note that we continue to review the staffing situation. The Government may instruct us to close in the near future. However, our Risk Assessment will dictate whether we close for the safety of all here at Longparish. In order to keep all children safe in this school, please understand that we do need *key members of staff to operate the school*. We will inform you immediately by email, if we need to close our school, should our staff need to self-isolate or become ill. We have expert guidance that we always adhere to and nothing will compromise the safety of children and staff.

Please understand that staff will be able to provide work for 'home learning' in due course. This will be prepared and sent to you as and when the time comes. This will take time to organise so please be patient. Thank you.

Please understand that staff are under considerable personal pressure themselves; it is a worrying time for us all with young and older family members to care for. Your patience is gratefully appreciated.



Please remember that we are a small school and we do not have the internal capacity to deal with non - essential correspondence / phone calls, so please keep these to a minimum. Please do not hesitate to call us in an emergency.

The situation is causing a lot of stress for several community members and we are grateful for the support we are receiving from you during this difficult time. Thank you.

Please take great care of yourself and your families. Please be assured that your children's health and safety is of paramount importance to us all.

Kindest Regards,

**Trudie Cawthra**  
**Head teacher**

