



Oaklands Infant School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Covid – 19 Update

We are aware that there is a huge amount of information in the media concerning the coronavirus and the potential impact on schools, but following the Prime Minister's announcement this afternoon, we want to reassure and inform you about what we have already put in place in school and what may happen in the future if the situation changes. Our first priority is always the health and welfare of our children and families.

At this stage, the school will not be closing. This will obviously be under continual review and may change as the disease spreads. Oaklands will only close if advised to do so.

COVID-19 is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. It is understood that the incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 to 14 days. The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

The country has now moved to the "Delay" phase of the disease. Therefore, the risk has obviously been raised. We reiterate the importance of hand washing as a vital tool to stop the spread. The new advice now is for anyone who has a continuous cough which is new or a high temperature (over 37.8) to stay at home for at least 7 days. This will mean the majority of people with these symptoms will no longer be infectious. If any symptoms deteriorate, please call 111 from this point (after the 7 days)

These symptoms do not necessarily mean an individual has COVID-19 as they are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu. Our advice is that if you are worried about your symptoms or those of your child (after the 7 day period) please call NHS 111 for advice and guidance. Prior to that, please access advice online. Oaklands Infant School follows the advice provided here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>, by Public Health England and the Department of Education.

Day to Day School Safety Practice:

To continue to raise the children's awareness regarding actions they can take to help delay the spread. This advice follows the government advice around hand washing and contact.

All staff and pupils are frequently reminded to wash their hands regularly (using soap and water or alcohol sanitiser) and for the required amount of time; to catch coughs or sneezes with a tissue; avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. We remind the children about good hygiene and encouraged hand washing:

1. before leaving home
2. on arrival at school
3. after using the toilet
4. playtime
5. after activities
6. before eating any food, including snacks

You might find this NHS video useful to help teach your child how to wash their hands:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>

- We are working with the cleaning company daily to prioritise high contact areas such as door handles and taps etc. We follow the advice of Public Health England. Soap dispensers are being checked frequently.
- Hand sanitisers are additionally being used for the children before lunch and for all visitors into school.
- We ask families to follow Public Health advice regarding school attendance should there be a suspected contact with anyone carrying the virus or returning from countries of concern.
- The school has a well-understood protocol that would be put in place if a pupil, member of staff or any other person on the school site displays symptoms whilst at school.

Contingency Plans

Current advice does not advocate closing the school unless under very specific conditions or directed to do so by NHS England. However, the Government are planning for a range of future scenarios, one of which includes the possibility of a temporary school closure. Whilst I sincerely hope this will not be the case, we have the following plans in place.

Communications

The school will communicate via e-mail, FaceBook and our website. We ask that you check for communications on a daily basis.

Student Learning

In the event of any closure we would expect your children to continue reading and learning at home. Our home learning grids are available on our website which offer learning activities linked to their current topics.

School Events

We have taken the decision to postpone our Foundation Stage Grandparents' Afternoon as a precautionary measure, due to the nature of the event and the advice from NHS England regarding the age demographic. We have also decided to postpone Chestnut Class assembly next Friday due to the amount of people this would involve.

Other school events are going ahead as planned for the moment: Year 2 Parent Lunches and class Celebrations of Learning. If there is any change to this policy, we will inform you immediately.

Potential School Closures

Any school closure **is a last resort**. A full school closure will only happen on the advice of Public Health England or a government direction. It is however possible that staff absence may make it necessary to operate partial closures. We will keep you fully informed.

As Headteacher, I am very conscious that the children and indeed anyone can become very worried about COVID-19. We will do all we can in school to reassure pupils and maintain a calm learning environment.

Current advice is clear that children should attend school as normal. Unless there is a medical reason for them to remain home as reiterated earlier in this letter

Recognising that COVID-19 is subject to rapid change, I highlight Government websites, which offer factual guidance and advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

The Government Coronavirus Action Plan; a guide to what you can expect across the UK –

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan

I do hope that you find our response to COVID-19 reassuring, however you should you have any specific concerns please contact the school office. Alternatively, you can contact the DfE helpline:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

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

Thank you for your ongoing support. We hope you appreciate we cannot predict what may happen but we are definitely well-prepared to ensure our children's education continues and we will always keep you informed of any changes.

Yours sincerely

Hannah O'Neill

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Headteacher