

16 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are taking seriously our role in trying to slow down the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We have taken the following measures with immediate effect:

- i) Assemblies are cancelled
- ii) School trips, visits and fixtures are cancelled
- iii) No visitors will be allowed on the school site during the school day, other than supply teachers if needed
- iv) Staff are not allowed to attend other schools, conferences, meetings or training events
- v) Parents evenings will be postponed
- vi) An additional outside food serving area will be opened to reduce canteen traffic at breaks and lunch times
- vii) Cleaners are prioritising disinfecting door handles and surfaces

These steps will minimise the amount of close contact our staff and students will have with individuals who are not part of our school community on a day to day basis and therefore reduce the risks of children bringing the virus home and our staff taking the virus to their homes.

We are also reminding students of the importance of good hand hygiene, including thorough hand washing and not touching their faces, in accordance with advice from Public Health England.

In terms of staff and student absence, I am asking staff and parents/carers to follow the latest Public Health England guidance. At the time of writing, this states the following:

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)

A new, continuous cough

You do not need to call 111 straight away. If symptoms worsen during the 7 days or are no better after 7 days, then contact 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. Those without internet access should phone 111. For a medical emergency, dial 999.

It is not for us to give medical advice, so please follow the guidance given by medical professionals and keep up to date with the guidance from Public Health England.

If your child will not be attending school, please contact the absence line to make us aware of the reasons for absence or telephone the school and ask to speak to a member of the Pastoral team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hemmings'.

Mr P. Hemmings
Headteacher