



17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus Updated Information

In light of yesterday's announcements from the Prime Minister, we would like to update you with our current plans. The government are now into the second phase of 'delay' which involves a reduction in large gatherings and they have said that they still have no plans to close schools – yet! Chief Scientific Officer Sir Patrick Vallance said: "It may be necessary to think about school closures, but those decisions need to be made at the right time."

The new measures, are that if anyone in your household develops the symptoms, then all family members need to self-isolate for 14 days if they, or a family member, have any new symptoms/vulnerabilities:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- Pregnant women have now been added to people over 70, and those with underlying conditions, as a group that should be avoiding social contact. They are being urged to stay at home for 12 weeks.

If your child develops either of these symptoms whilst in our care, the office will make contact with you to arrange a safe and timely collection.

Consequently, this changing landscape has made a difficult situation more challenging. As weeks go by, this will inevitably become less about educating your children and more about looking after all children safely until the end of the school day, as staffing may become affected. We will attempt to cover classes and we will continue to strive to provide the best quality of education possible. I know that you will continue to support us, whilst we find the right balance.

In school, the following contingency measures are being taken:

- Continued vigilance with pupil and staff hygiene, supporting the younger children to ensure the '20-second hand washing rule' is applied as well as the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.
- No whole school assembly as of today. These will continue as individual class assemblies.
- Parents evening to be cancelled and replaced with an updated mid-term report. These reports will be sent home on Thursday 2nd April.
- Limiting visitors to our school – and we ask that all parents please drop their child/ren at classroom doors and to not enter the cloakrooms/classrooms themselves. We think it will be best to decrease the risk of outside germs coming into the school and Pre-school.
- Advanced cleaning procedures.
- School clubs and extended provision will currently continue as scheduled; this may need to be reviewed if staff levels drop or if the mandates, at a national level, however

external out of school clubs, such as fencing, Fizzpop and football club will be postponed.

- All SEND appointments are cancelled just until further notice; however, Mrs Hartley-Criddle will make contact with parents by email if necessary.
- Hot meals may need to be replaced with a packed lunch or cold service, depending on levels of staffing.
- All other, future events/diary dates up until Easter, are to be postponed until further notice.
- Potential partial and possible full school closure

Additionally, if you or your child suffer from asthma please refer to Asthma UK for up-to-date guidance: <https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/coronavirus-covid-19/>

There has been much professional discussion about potential school closures should any pupil or staff member contract the virus. The Department for Education guidance is that this should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and that no school should make any decision without consulting Public Health England. At this time, we can confirm that there are no known cases in our school.

If your family are affected and need to self-isolate, home learning will be provided through our class do-jo system and through the school website. Please let your class teacher know, if you are unable to access class do-jo or the website. These will be updated regularly and operational if we need to close.

Please bear with us as we cover classes, organise home-learning and continue to ensure the best possible care for your child/children.

We are determined to stay open for as long as we can do so safely, but we may approach a point where we will only be able to function with reduced provision, or be required to fully close at short notice.

Understandably, we are currently receiving a high number of phone calls and emails from concerned parents/carers. Please be patient with us as we try to respond. Please ensure that you seek any medical advice using the 111 on-line.

I thank you once again, for your patience and support in this ever-changing situation. We would like to ask that we *all* take our social responsibilities seriously, by following the advice as it is issued by the Government and by not sharing fake news, or assumptions and predictions from unreliable sources.

I fully appreciate the difficulties faced by you as parents/carers however, I am not prepared to take a risk with anybody's health and well-being.

Keep safe and very best wishes,

Carly Wilkins
Headteacher



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Wellesley Park is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and expects all staff to share this commitment.