

Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Families,

Following on from the Government's announcements this evening on Coronavirus (Covid -19) we are writing to clarify the updates and our approach as a school. There have been key changes to the guidelines which we want to ensure all our families understand.

What is the updated situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given.
- Pupils should attend school unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms, a new continuous cough, or a high temperature, they **should remain at home for 14 days**. The advice is now that anyone who lives with someone who has a cough or a high temperature should stay at home for **14 days themselves**, whether or not they have those symptoms themselves. We ask all members of our school community to follow these guidelines.
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by phoning the school and leaving an answerphone message. You can also email the school at school@bowsland.org.uk, please state your child's name, class and the reason they are off school.
- Public Health England have now advised that anyone with an underlying health condition must be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures. If you feel your child fits into this category we are happy to provide learning for your child to complete at home. Please email school to arrange this.
- Following the new guidance regarding social distancing, we have taken the decision to cancel whole school events before Easter. This means the following events will be rescheduled in the Summer terms:
 - 17th March – Holly Class assembly
 - 18th March – Mother's Day Lunch
 - 23rd March and 26th March – Learning Consultations
 - 24th March – Chestnut Class assembly
 - 31st March and 1st April – LKS2 production
 - 2nd April – Spring Disco
- We are implementing reduced contact measures in school, this includes reducing carpet time, reducing sharing of equipment and not using physical touch, such as a handshake, to greet people. We are asking all visitors to school to wash their hands or to use hand sanitizer when they arrive on site and when they leave.
- We have introduced 'Bug Busters' in classrooms. Children are in handwashing groups and are washing their hands at increased points during the day.
- All school clubs continue to run as normal, this includes breakfast club, after school club and superstars clubs. Please note this is subject to change if we experience staff shortages.

What we need you to do

- Make sensible decisions about your child's attendance. If your child has a high fever and/or develops a new continuous cough follow the guidelines to **self isolate for 14 days**. Your family will need to self isolate for this time period too. You will need to decide for yourself if your child meets the criteria. If a child feels unwell for another reason, for example, a cold then parents should decide in the normal way if they are well enough to attend school.
- Adhere to the guidelines. This is a confusing time for many people, we must ensure we are following the advice provided to keep not only ourselves, but others, safe.
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- Be considerate of everyone in our school community. Everyone is doing their best in very challenging circumstances. It may take a little longer than normal to get through to us on the phone and we may have to make decisions in a short time frame. We will endeavour to communicate with families as promptly as possible.

What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school. We will endeavour to keep the school open and our plan would be to close classes if possible instead of a full school closure.

In either case, we will:

- Advise families as soon as possible via our text and email service. We will also place a post on our website.
- Provide work for children to complete at home. This will be available online or via a pack. This decision will be confirmed if closures of classes or the whole school has to happen.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. **There are currently no plans to close.**

If you have any questions

- Speak to the School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- Public Health England updates: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

I would like to thank you all for your continued understanding and support. We will continue to update families with guidance as soon as it is received in this unique situation.

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