

Friday 13th March 2020

Dear Parent/s Carers,

I am writing to you today to share the latest update about schools and coronavirus. As you know yesterday the government gave an update on their strategy, which has moved from the 'Contain' phase to the 'Delay' phase. This phase will have an impact on us all and will affect us here at CtS.

Firstly, the advice from public health England is that schools should remain open and not close.

'No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England.'

The advice does onto say that if schools do have a confirmed case of COVID-19 amongst staff or pupils, they must conduct a risk assessment with help from one of Public Health England's health protection teams. If CtS should find itself in this situation then we will seek and follow the advice from the appropriate support agency.

If a child or member of staff feels unwell with a dry cough and cold or flu like symptoms then they should self-isolate for seven days. During the school day, if we are concerned about a child's health in terms of the virus then we will isolate them, contact parents and if necessary call 111. If you feel your child is unwell with any of the symptoms please do not send them to school.

Most people will no longer be likely to transmit the virus 7 days after the onset of symptoms. You do not need to call NHS111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms persist past 7 days you should contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111.

However, please phone us and inform us for the reason for them being off. We will maintain records of all the reported illness for the foreseeable future to help us maintain an overview of the local situation.

With the possibility of staff having to self-isolate as well as pupils this may lead to some difficult situations within school. It will be our aim to keep the school open for as long as possible until told to do otherwise by Public Health England and direction from the ODBST. However, we may have to make changes at short notice. There may be times when we have to combined two or more classes and take time out of the Curriculum to accommodate different age groups and availability of staff. Please continue to bring your children to the right areas of the school for drop off in the morning and we will sort it from there. Our priority will also be the well being and safety of the children and staff and if we need to close classes or parts of the school because of staffing

ratios we will inform you as soon as possible. Now might be a good time to start thinking about contingency plans for child care in case this should happen and may happen at very short notice.

If your child is self-isolating or unwell we will not be sending work home for them to complete. They should continue to read every day, practise their times tables and simple Maths activities around the home. They could also write a diary, book reviews, film review, write letters to friends and family, shopping lists, instructions for house hold tasks etc.

Please make sure you have left your most up to date contact details with the school office. We will use our usual communication channels – **ParentMail** to share information, but we may need to contact you urgently if your child becomes unwell.

Hopefully we will all be able to stay well for as long as possible as we won't have to get to the school closure stage. We are all dealing with exceptional circumstances, decisions and advice changes on a daily basis but we will continue to do our best for your children.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Quirk