



Coronavirus – Covid 19 Update

Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of 'delaying' the spread of the virus. We are getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that at Beechwood we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and the Local Authority.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** - this is the current official guidance we have been given.
- **Breakfast Club and Tree House will continue to run as normal.**
- **After school sports clubs will stop** until further notice.
- **Pupils should attend school unless they feel unwell.** Only if your child has a new, continuous cough (coughing repeatedly) and/or a high temperature of over 38°C **should they remain at home and isolate for 7 days.**
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by calling the school office.
- **All non-essential school visits and sporting competitions will be cancelled.** Please check the school website for updates on these sessions.
- A decision regarding Residential Visits in Year 3 and 5 and the visit to London in June will be made closer to the time.
- There will be **no Mother's Day Fayre on Wednesday 18th March.**
- We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- Additional daily classroom cleaning.
- Regular, hourly disinfecting of door handles, tables and regularly touched items.
- Dedicated area for children who feel ill and are showing potential symptoms isolated away from the rest of the school while waiting for parents/carers to collect.
- Regular, enforced hand washing before and after lessons, after break and lunch times and after using the toilet.
- Reducing the frequency of assemblies.
- Providing lessons to further educate pupils about hygiene.

- Keeping visitors to a minimum and enforcing hand washing when they enter the school building.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via telephone so that we have the most up-to-date contact information. Please let the school have 3 emergency contacts.

- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. BBC Newsround has regular updates for children.

- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a high temperature and/or a new, continuous cough).

- Check the school website for daily updates.

What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school safely.

In either case, we will:

- Alert parents/carers to closure and when the school will reopen via the Class Dojo app, a school text message and the school website.

- Set work for pupils to complete during any closure. This may be via an online platform or via paper copies of work booklets. We may ask you to check that your child has access to the online platform from home, and let us know if there are any issues.

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

If you have any questions, please consult the:

- School Office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue;

- NHS, if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms;

- 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.

It is a tricky time and we know you are worried about the impact this might have on your child's education and our school community. It is important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs. S Harper

Headteacher