

16 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

With updated advice from the Department of Public Health England in connection with the Corona Virus having been received over the past few days, in particular in connection with the need for all persons that display the symptoms of the corona virus (mainly a fever and/or a continual cough) to self-isolate, it is likely that we may experience increased staff absence across our schools. We will be doing all that we can to ensure that schools can continue to operate but, as I am sure you will understand, there may be some changes to the usual in-school arrangements.

Like all schools across the country, those within the Trust are following the guidance received from the Department of Public Health. Our schools will therefore only be closed in the following circumstances:

- Closure of all schools in line with the national advice
- Individual school as advised by the Department of Public Health due to reasons specific to that setting
- In the event that staff shortages mean that it would not be safe to open the school. In some cases, it may be possible to open the school to a reduced number of classes.

If it becomes necessary for any school to close or partially close, parents and carers will be notified via the school's usual communication channels.

If your child is absent from school due to self-isolation or school closure, and is well, we would ask that you please support your child in continuing with their learning. Schools across the Trust have plans in place to provide opportunities for this to take place and your school will share these with you as and when appropriate or necessary.

We are also aware that some schools may utilise on-line platforms, webinars and other internet programmes, but appreciate that not all families have access to a computer or similar. Schools will therefore try to ensure that alternative resources are available to those that require them. We are also currently awaiting further advice in relation to national alternatives to the provision of the usual free school meals.

We recognise that this period is a very difficult time and any school closures will be closely aligned to a public health emergency, a time when resources are stretched, a time of great stress and anxiety for everyone. We will do all that we can to support children throughout this period.

Finally, you will find on both the Trust and your school's websites links to the relevant government updates and guidance.

With many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards,



David Gregory CBE
CEO