



Tuesday 17th March

Coronavirus



Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus and implications for schools

Schools receive daily updates and advice from the Department for Education, in conjunction with Public Health England, and I am writing to inform you of the current position, our plans should this change over coming days/weeks, and how parents/carers can support.

Obviously, our key concern is the health of everyone in the school community.

Current situation

The current advice is for schools to continue as normal and we would urge parents to send children to school as normal. If anyone in your household is presenting with the symptoms of Coronavirus the whole family should stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days, these symptoms being:

- Raised temperature
- New persistent cough.

It is important to note that there are plenty of children, and adults, who may have a cold at this time of year, but may not be infected with the Coronavirus. If you feel your child needs to stay at home because they are presenting the symptoms associated with the Coronavirus, please contact the school in the usual way and inform us.

We have decided to cancel parents' evening on 2nd April to avoid bringing a large number of people together, as per government guidelines. We will be in touch with alternative arrangements in due course.

Trips and visits will be cancelled until further notice.

EHCP reviews will **continue** until further notice.

What if the school closes?

Staff at Ellesmere College have been preparing for the possibility that the government will decide to close schools. There is also the possibility that too many staff are self-isolating and the school is forced to close. We would not take this decision lightly and will do our best to stay open for as long as possible. We will need to make daily decisions based on staff and pupil numbers. We will also be exploring ways to ensure children who qualify for free school meals are provided with lunch.



The nature of our children's special educational needs makes setting work to do at home more challenging but in the event of a closure we will provide suggestions for home learning for those students who are able. For those students due to take GCSE exams in the summer, work will be set to complete at home.

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School reception, 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, 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 are taking abroad should go ahead.

We will do all we can to continue as normal and, in the event of a closure, will be working hard to make sure education can continue as effectively as possible. We very much appreciate your support and understanding in what is certainly unprecedented circumstances.

We will continue to stay in contact via the school text service. If your mobile phone number has changed please let us know so that we can keep you up to date with the situation.

Thank you for your continued support.



Steph Beale
Principal