



# Newsletter: Coronavirus update

[www.rainhamvillage.havering.sch.uk](http://www.rainhamvillage.havering.sch.uk)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Coronavirus update

At the time of writing, I am still informed that schools are to stay open unless directed by Public Health England to close – therefore the assumption is that children are expected to continue to attend. However, we are aware from the News recently that the Government has moved to the next phase of managing the virus which could include closing schools in the future.

I also understand that the Government is to begin daily press briefings to keep us all updated.

Today, we have had several parents phone in to let us know that due to family medical conditions they are keeping their children off school.

To support children whilst at home, we are sending out a list of activities children could do at home. This is to assist in any short notice closure, as I am also aware that some families do not have internet access and so this paper copy helps us ensure you have the activities in preparation if needed.

I am awaiting Local Authority advice about how absences need to be coded if children are not actually unwell or showing symptoms. I do appreciate that everyone is anxious and needs to consider their individual circumstances.

We continue to follow the Government advice with regular handwashing and wiping down of surfaces.

We do now have some children (and staff) with very dry, sore hands. Usually we have not allowed children to individually bring in handwashes, soaps, sanitizer or hand creams. We acknowledge that we are currently in a unique situation and are allowing this. However, children are reminded to NOT share any of these products.

Furthermore, whilst we have beakers in school for children to drink from, we would ask that your child brings their own water bottle in, labelled with their name so they do not share beakers with other children.

Next week ( 23<sup>rd</sup> March), we were going to have to cancel after school clubs as Havering staff (teachers) would be attending the Havering Festival of Education events after school and then we wouldn't normally have clubs during the week after as that's the last week of term.

In the current climate, and with several parents checking daily about clubs we have decided to cancel all clubs until further notice – from today. This will reduce children from different year groups going into each other's classrooms.

However, the exception will be the Year 6 Booster sessions below as this year group work closely together in groups/sets across their 3 classrooms normally.

Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30pm (Miss Miller, Mrs Smith, Mr Vanancio, Miss Harrow's groups),

Thursday 3:30-4:30pm (Mrs Clifford's group) and Friday 7:35-8:35am (Miss Harrow's group)

If your child (or a family member) becomes unwell with a new persistent cough or high temperature (37.8) , the current advice is to self isolate for 7 days. If anyone has a confirmed case, Public Health England will work with me and the School giving advice (alongside your family and any other contacts). Please phone in to keep us informed.

It's important to continue to ensure good hygiene and for everyone to be sensible. I realise that we all have different opinions about the responses to the Coronavirus and as professionals here at the School we shall continue to follow guidance and to support our community to look after and protect each other.

We do have access to Foodbank vouchers if your family meets the criteria and you think that a school closure could affect your child getting a main meal. Please phone in and ask to speak to Miss Harrow for further details.

If we need to close, we will notify you via GroupCall and update information on our website [www.rainhamvillage.havering.sch.uk](http://www.rainhamvillage.havering.sch.uk) and mobile app.

Download our mobile app from Google Play Store or Apple App Store. Ensure you enable push notifications to receive all updates and newsletters.

Please also ensure we have your correct mobile number.

Thank you.

S.E. Carter  
Headteacher