Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Coronavirus update

As you would have been aware, the Prime Minister updated the government’s guidance on the approach it’s taking to deal with the spread of the coronavirus yesterday.

The key new government measure include:

- If one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days
- Everyone should avoid gatherings and crowded places, such as pubs, clubs and theatres
- Everyone should work from home if they can
- All "unnecessary" visits to friends and relatives in care homes should cease
- People should only use the NHS "where we really need to" - and can reduce the burden on workers by getting advice on the NHS website where possible
- By next weekend, those with the most serious health conditions must be "largely shielded from social contact for around 12 weeks"
- The UK is now "three weeks" behind Italy - the worst-hit country in Europe
- Those people should, if possible, avoid leaving the house "even to buy food or essentials" - but they may leave the house "for exercise and, in that case, at a safe distance from others"
- Schools will not be closed for the moment

Chief medical adviser Prof Chris Whitty said the group of people who should take "particular care to minimise their social contact" were:

- People over the age of 70
- Other adults who would normally be advised to have the flu vaccine (such as those with chronic diseases)
- Pregnant women (This means members of staff who are pregnant will not be in school from today. Cover arrangements will be in place.)

Further impact on school life...

- School trips have now been postponed (impact this week for Year 1 air museum)
- Year 4 swimming has been cancelled (possibility of infection from the changing rooms)
- Manor Adventure trip deposits (Year 5 children) are not now required - the deadline will be extended. We will hold deposits already paid and return if the trip cannot go ahead.

We have had a few enquiries about children being kept at home because of health fears. Please just let the school know and we are recording these absences as authorised and linked to this health emergency. Please note however, this cannot be done on a day by day basis

Thank you for your support and understanding at this difficult time.

Take good care of care of each other.

Mrs G Bowser