



18 March 2020

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATED ADVICE AND INFORMATION

Dear parents and carers

The situation regarding the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to be fluid.

Current advice remains in place: no school should close in response to a suspected or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce would be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

However, owing to [Public Health England's stay at home advice](#), there will be inevitable increases in absence amongst school staff over the coming days and, indeed, weeks.

I am sure you will understand that there are now increasing challenges presented with operating schools safely.

I am therefore asking all parents and carers to begin making appropriate preparations for imminent partial school closures, reduced operating hours or – as a worst-case scenario – a full school closure. Such a closure could last for a period of several weeks.

Children of key workers

I will always endeavour to ensure that all available resources are targeted where the need is greatest and I am currently making contingency plans which will enable me to prioritise the attendance of children of key workers.

In the event of any partial or full school closure I will **attempt** to ensure arrangements are made so that those children of parents and carers who are **NHS front-line healthcare professionals or healthcare workers** can continue to attend school.

I am therefore requesting that any parents and carers who are **NHS front-line healthcare professionals in any capacity or healthcare workers** identify themselves by contacting admin@someriesjuniorschool.co.uk or speaking to Mrs Dudley in the School Office as soon as possible.

This will enable me to make appropriate preparations to ensure your children can continue to attend school in the event of any form of school closure. However, please be advised that this is not a promise, but a **potential** contingency plan.

Communication of school closures

The decision to close the school will be communicated to all parents and carers via email **as soon as possible after any decision is made**.

During any school closure, daily messages will be communicated via email by 3:00pm each day regarding the following day, unless a set period of school closure has been determined.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding during these uncertain times – it is very much appreciated.

Take care,

Mr Hunt