

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Coronavirus (COVID – 19) UPDATES for West Acton**

The UK Government recently moved from its 'contain' to its 'delay' phase, which introduced new procedures to help slow the spread of Coronavirus. This has two main aims: to encourage excellent hygiene and to limit our potential exposure to the virus.

**Limiting our Exposure**

We have to introduce some new measures and sadly cancel a few school events:

**Self-isolate for 14 days**

- If your child is experiencing a **new cough or a fever**, *they must self-isolate for 14 days*. During self isolation children should be at least 2 metres away from everyone at home. If this isn't possible, please keep all siblings off school for 14 days too.
- You may be called to collect your child if we notice these symptoms.

**Cancellations**

- Easter Bonnet and Spring Sings will not go ahead.
- Parent forum and book look for this term Spring 2 will not go ahead.
- Sports and Maths events with other schools will not go ahead.
- Safeguarding evening session Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March will not go ahead.
- Year 5 and 6 go straight to class and the teachers will collect phones in class
- Trips booked before the Easter holidays will not go ahead

**Continuously being reviewed *but not yet cancelled – as the daily situation changes***

- Swimming will continue *but under review*
- Clubs will continue *but under review ( the clubs may cancel themselves)*
- Agency staff will continue to be used if needed *but under review*
- Visiting professionals will be allowed into school *but under review*

**Hygiene**

All the children have been taught to wash their hands correctly and do this at key times during the day. To avoid spreading infection, NHS advice is:

Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds and whenever you:

- get home, or arrive at work or school
- blow your nose, sneeze or cough
- eat or handle food

Children are allowed to bring in hand sanitisers to school but this should not replace washing their hands. We have employed extra cleaners to support increased hygiene in school.

I would like to remind you of Government information and helpline that you can call:

**Department for Education Coronavirus helpline** The DfE have launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

**Phone: 0800 046 8687**

**Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)**

**Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)**

No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England – should it be necessary we will have an assessment.

### **How you can help**

As I have mentioned before, during this time we are relying on our school values of courage, consideration and collaboration – people taking care of each other and being honest. Furthermore we expect the British Values, especially those of tolerance and respect, to be upheld and no member of our diverse community singled out for a worldwide crisis. If you haven't already listened to our Year 4 pupils on LBC – please do so: they speak with such integrity.

Please do not speculate about staff or pupils who may be off and do not ask staff why people are off.

Please do not enter classrooms or the school reception or engage teachers and staff in unnecessary conversations: email in to [admin@west-acton.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:admin@west-acton.ealing.sch.uk) Do not come to the office to ask questions about the coronavirus, refunds or school closures – please read letters, texts and emails.

Please leave our school premises as soon as you collect your child, do not allow your children to run around and play. I am so sad that every day I am having to ask the same group of parents to take their unsupervised children off of the climbing frame and vacate the playground.

Please avoid bringing children, other than our pupils, onto the school site.

Above all, we need to consider the health and safety of our whole school community: the biggest factor is having the correct number of staff in school to keep it open. Every school will start to respond differently as their numbers of staff and pupils affected will vary and each school will start to make some decisions that are different from each other.

We want to keep daily life as normal and as safe for our pupils as possible – many pupils are starting to get very worried. We have encouraged them to talk to you or teachers and staff. We have also reassured them that if we do have to close we will be constantly posting work and updates to keep them occupied and learning.

Thank you for your cooperation on this serious matter.

Yours faithfully,

**Karen Kondo**

**Head teacher**