

Dear parents/carers,

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update – As of 16th March 2020

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at Oakfield House School we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions continue to run as normal
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child or any other member of your household has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 14 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by contacting School on 01772 672630
- End of term trips are currently under review and we will inform you in due course
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

The school have already in place a contingency plan that clearly outlines how the school will continue to protect and support all of our pupils and staff during a period of national uncertainty

- If your child should arrive to school and display symptoms associated with COVID-19; arrangements with yourself will be made to send them home. We will make every attempt to use Passenger Transport Services to do this, however please be aware that you may be asked to collect your child in person



- Our cleaning team have been instructed to carry out extra 'deep cleans' in all classrooms, dining areas and staff and pupils toilets and basins
- Reinforcing hand-washing protocols and providing hand sanitisers wherever required
- Tutorials and Lessons for pupils about hygiene and how to deal with anxiety

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email: office@oakfieldhouseschool.co.uk Telephone: 01772 672630
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- Re-inforce the handwashing advisory protocol
- Keep your child off from school if they or anyone in the household have a new/continuous cough and/or a temperature
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case:

- We will alert you as parents via text message; in addition to this a member of the senior leadership team will attempt to follow this personally by calling. We will also be updating our website with daily updates regarding closures and openings – you can find the information on: <https://oakfieldhouseschool.co.uk>
- We will also use the same alert process to inform you when the school will re-open
- The school have prepared emergency education packs which will cover a wide range of subjects including English, Maths and Science. You will be provided with approximately 2 weeks' worth of work in the event of any school closure. **If you are unsure whether the school has your email address, please contact the office to update this.** This will be particularly helpful in being able to send you any additional work.





- We will also be issuing the login details for our online sites for Nessy, Active learn and RM Easi Maths.
- Websites such as Twinkl and Hamilton Trust are currently offering free work packs which can be accessed by parents/carers with no charge.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, 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're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Angela Clark
Headteacher

