

# Hartsfield JMI School

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17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Coronavirus update

I am sure, like me, you are watching the developments surrounding the virus and the daily changing advice.

With the recent advice as of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, in mind, the following have been actioned until further notice within school:

- All after-school activities, run by ourselves or external providers, have been cancelled to concentrate staffing and resources to the main school day.
- All large meetings of adults have been cancelled including parent assemblies and the upcoming Year 6 Parents meeting for PGL.
- Many external suppliers have cancelled events e.g. Year 5 Bikeability
- All 'vulnerable' adults and children and staff showing a possible symptom as noted by Public Health England, are being asked to self-isolate.
- Following guidance, we will not have Mrs Cooper, our lollipop person, supervising our crossing from tomorrow until further notice.

Please could I ask you, when dropping off and collecting your children at school, to spend as little time as possible on school premises, grouped together with other parents and carers. This is to reduce the likelihood of transmission of the virus between different parents/carers. We are aiming to have the school premises cleared of children and parents/carers by 3.30 pm each day.

Regarding self-isolation, below is the latest Government guidance received this afternoon:

### New guidance for households with symptoms

Yesterday, the Government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started
- if you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members **must stay at home and not leave the house** for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.



- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

The current government advice for schools is that we remain open however we are reviewing the staffing situation daily. We must ensure that we have the necessary number of staff to provide cover and maintain the safety of the children in our care. We are already moving staff as required to ensure that coverage and may need to consider condensing/combining groups of children as required.

If we reach a point where we are unable to maintain full opening due to lack of staff, I will make the decision to partially close the school. In that situation, I will give as much notice as I possibly can.

I will, of course, continue to follow Government advice and to keep you all informed. If we are advised to close I will contact you by email, on the school website news page and also via the Everbridge system.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

*Philippa Smith*

Philippa Smith (Mrs)

Headteacher

