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**Headteacher: Lucy Wawrzyniak** MTcg; PGCE; BA(Hons)

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Changes to School's Operational Running**

The school's Senior Leadership Team and chair of governors have met today to agree some necessary adjustments to its usual operational running and we felt you might appreciate having an overview of the decisions made.

We are following any guidance issued by the Department for Education and Public Health England and we will continue to update you as this guidance changes. Please be aware this information is current from today, but may be revised at any time.

The current advice is that if you, or anyone living with you, have a new cough, temperature above 37.8 or respiratory difficulties, you must self isolate for 14 days.

The government is still requiring schools to stay open, although there is currently no specific guidance for special schools. For this reason, we will fully support those of you who feel the need to keep your children away from school and we are endeavouring to put together advice about how you can support learning at home should you choose to do this. We have already sent home Education City passwords and Twinkl are offering free access to all parents for the coming month at least.

For those in school, we aim to keep the everyday experience of the children as familiar as possible at all times, whilst aiming to reduce the risk to their health and that of staff members.. We are therefore asking all classes to remain on site and for learning experiences to be adjusted so they can take place in school and not risk infection from external venues.

As a result, the following aspects of our usual school life will **not go ahead** until further notice:

- Class Inclusion sessions



We're working  
towards Artsmark  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



- Swimming
- Trips and visits
- Offsite/Community-based learning including cafe visits.

We currently aim to maintain all aspects of our core functioning that specifically relate to the children's learning and their well-being. Therefore the following **will** continue until further notice:

- Therapy support from our usual NHS multi-agency working partners, such as Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and the nursing team
- Scheduled clinics
- Staff attendance at external Child in Need or Child Protection Meetings, where appropriate

However, we will now stop all non-essential visits to the school site:

- Prospective parent visitors
- External sports coaches
- Any further non-essential visitors

Please be mindful that your children may also be anxious if they are hearing the news and the conversations around them. It is therefore important that we support them by maintaining usual routines as far as is safe to do so, by calmly explaining that good hygiene routines will help reduce the risk and reassuring them that we are all working hard to keep them safe and by gently clarifying any misconceptions they may have.

If you would like to speak to us about suitable approaches to support your child or would like to talk through your own concerns at any time, please do feel you can contact the school.

Kind regards,



Lucy Wawrzyniak  
Head Teacher