

17 March 2020

Dear Parents,

Coronavirus Update – Tuesday 17th March 2020

As you know, the Government advice regarding Coronavirus changed yesterday as follows:

- If anyone in your household has symptoms of Coronavirus, then all in the household are to stay at home for 14 days. Please notify emma.webb@duncombe-school.co.uk as soon as possible if this affects your child, ideally by 8.30am on the first day of absence.
- People who may be particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 including those who are pregnant, over 70 or have underlying health conditions are advised to self-isolate.
- The Government are also advising that social contact be minimised and unnecessary travel be eliminated. The steps outlined in my letter yesterday addressed how we are approaching this in advance. I place a reminder for you here:
 - Year 5 Parents' Evening to be postponed. An update concerning this will be shared once I have further information.
 - All day trips will be cancelled for the remainder of this term. You will not be billed for these cancelled trips.
 - All Parent to Lunch events for the remainder of this term are postponed. This affects Year 3 parents on Wednesday 18th March and Year 6 parents on Wednesday 25th March. An update on concerning this will be shared once I have further information.
 - EKG & KG Mums' to Play on Thursday 19th March will be postponed. An update concerning this will be shared once I have further information.
 - I have instructed all staff that conference/training attendance for the remainder of this term will be cancelled.
 - Both Mothers' Day Assemblies for next Monday will be cancelled.
 - The Opening of the Treetops Reading Café is postponed. An update concerning this will be shared once I have further information.

These combined measures will increasingly make operating our school very challenging as many staff and pupils may now need to self-isolate. We are evaluating the impact on the day-to-day running of the school and may have to aggregate classes and similar measures in order to continue. As the pandemic develops, it seems likely that the Government will shortly take the action of closing schools soon as other governments have across Europe.

As Cognita Schools Group we have been reluctant to deviate from Government policy but are now considering whether it might be better to effect an early and smooth transition to remote and then online learning for your children rather than wait for a potentially sudden shutdown. Your opinion as parents is important and Stuart Rolland CEO Europe Cognita, will be sending a short all parent survey to you today to capture this.

Please be assured that regardless of the outcome we will maintain as high a standard of education as possible for your children, whether in the classroom or through adopting our remote and then online learning protocol. In addition, please be assured that I will continue to keep the whole Duncombe Community updated and thank you for all pulling together so brilliantly. I really am a very proud of the whole community.

Thank you in advance for completing the short survey.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Phelan', written in a cursive style.

Jeremy Phelan