

17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week the government's guidance on the coronavirus changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We are getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all members of our school community.

We would like to reassure you that at Bridgnorth Endowed School we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Shropshire Local Authority.

#### What is the current situation?

- **The school remains open** – this is the current official guidance that we have been given.
- However, we have taken the decision to:
  - cancel all school sporting fixtures;
  - postpone the school show;
  - postpone the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze trip;
  - postpone the planned Duke of Edinburgh expedition in July;
  - cancel the Activ4 Sports Tour to Italy.
- We will keep you up-to-date with possible changes to any other planned school trip.
- We will continue to run after-school clubs.
- Pupils should attend school unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
  - a new, continuous cough and/or
  - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, please report this as you would normally by telephoning the school on 01746 762103.
- At this time we are expecting GCSE examinations to go ahead as scheduled, but we will keep you up-to-date with any developments.

## What we are doing to protect and support students and staff

In line with guidance from the Department for Education and Public Health England, we are:

- Advising that staff and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others.
- Sending staff and children home should they become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature.
- Moving unwell children awaiting collection to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door.
- Cleaning and disinfecting regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual.
- Providing hand sanitisers.
- Delivering guidance to students during tutor time about what they need to do to limit the spread.
- Displaying posters providing hygiene advice.

## What we need you to do

- If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible.
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It is 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.
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).
- Check that you child is able to access RM Unify through the BES Portal on the school's website.

## What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will:

- Inform you of our intention to close the school via text, email and the school's website.
- Inform you of our decision to reopen the school via text, email and the school's website.
- Set work for students to complete via:
  - Email;
  - SAM Learning;
  - Maths Watch;
  - Britannica School.

Please keep in mind that we are 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 is a tricky time and we know you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. It is important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Worth  
Headteacher