



Horizons Specialist Academy Trust
Providing infinite opportunities

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Mel Lyons

Principal

17th March 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

RE: Coronavirus update and potential school closure due to the spread of coronavirus

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread and the number of confirmed cases in the UK increases, we are making plans to cover all eventualities.

We take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously, and while there is currently no immediate cause for concern at our school, we will keep you updated with any developments, including whether we will need to close.

Current guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) remains that schools stay open; however, it is possible that this advice may change as the rates of infection continue to rise. However the updated guidance from the government briefing yesterday strongly advised social distancing for those **individuals with underlying health conditions**. Therefore if you feel your child falls into this category and wish to keep them at home to self-isolate, we will authorize their absence.

Additionally the guidance states that those in a household where someone has a continuous cough and/ or temperature should now **isolate themselves for 14 days**. If your child develops a continuous cough/rise in temperature, **do not send them to school and they will need to be isolated for 14 days also**.

In the event that we do close the school, you will be informed via **text message** or **email** and advised on how long we expect the closure to last. Please check that you have provided us with your most up-to-date contact details to ensure you receive any notification regarding a closure. If you need to provide us with new details, please contact the school office on 01642 570104.

Arrangements for a school closure and home learning

All children have been provided with a pack of work to be completed in the event of a school closure including a list of useful websites and educational programmes (with log in details where required). For children in year 6 who will be involved in the SATS, revision packs will also be sent home.

The local authority are also looking to put support in place for families accessing free school meals in the case of a school closure, further details will be shared when required.



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In the meantime, we will continue to implement additional health protection measures and follow the relevant advice issued by the Department of Education and Public Health England.

Please note that ***we are not confirming that the school will close*** – but I want to reassure you that if this were to happen, we are fully prepared to ensure that we can support the ongoing education of the students.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Lyons
Principal

**Rights Respecting School
Article 3**

***The best interests of the child must be top priority in
all decisions and actions that affect children.***