

Coronavirus Update



Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your continued support during these very challenging and unprecedented times. We want to do everything we can to support our families. I want to reassure you that we are maintaining a sense of calm and order, as always, whilst your children are at school. Thank you very much for your kind emails of thanks and support for the teachers going to some homes yesterday to deliver over thirty packs of work for children. I feel incredibly lucky to work with such a fantastic team of people.

I am pleased to report that we are open tomorrow for ALL year groups, including EYFS. We continue to have considerable staffing challenges. We have seventeen staff absent from school, who are either self-isolating, or following Trust guidance to work from home. However, we know that a number of our families are also self-isolating for a period and, therefore, some children are also absent from school, and this means that we will have sufficient staff working in school, to keep everyone safe.

We will monitor the situation daily and the decision to close, or partially close, may change from day by day. Please do bear with us.

We have cancelled the following school trips:

- Year One trip to Colchester Zoo
- Year Six trip to Duxford
- Year Three trip to Shikpling Park Farm

At the moment, we are still planning for our residential trips to go ahead. These are the Year Five Kip in a Ship trip and the Year Six trip to Mersea. However, this decision may have to change in the future.

Please continue to use the up to date information that is provided on the NHS websites, and, if your child is showing signs of Coronavirus, please do keep them at home (see advice below). Please do leave a message on the school answer phone to inform us, and please also let us know if your family is self-isolating.

Kind regards,

Jane Sendall
Headteacher

FAQs

If school is closed, will breakfast and after school club parents get a refund? **Yes**

Can children wear masks? **It is not recommended that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. If your child is showing symptoms of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) then follow the NHS guidance – they should not come to school**

Will school trips still go ahead? All booked day trips have been cancelled for the foreseeable future – refunds will be arranged in the next day or two. Currently, we are intending that our two residential trips will go ahead. This may change in the future.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) NHS Website Advice:

Stay at home if you have coronavirus symptoms

Stay at home if you have either:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.

How long to stay at home

- if you have symptoms, stay at home for 7 days
- if you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms

If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.

If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days

Use the 111 coronavirus service

Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.