



Dear Parents/Carers

13 March 2020

I wanted to write to assure you that the academy your child attends – and indeed all schools within Thinking Schools Academy Trust – is continuing to follow the latest advice from the Government and Public Health England (PHE) to help ensure the health and wellbeing of our whole school community. This is, as always, our top priority.

We currently have no specific concerns about anyone within our school community in relation to Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the academy remains open as usual, as advised by the Government and confirmed as the guidance again yesterday afternoon by the Prime Minister.

All school closure decisions will ultimately be taken by the CEO but we will co-ordinate this decision with the school and local authority, and will of course again follow Government and PHE advice and guidance.

In preparation for full or partial closures I would like to provide you with a summary on what we will do to enable pupils to access learning materials. Firstly, we would provide regular updates to parents via our MYEd app, the school website and our social media pages. We are in the process of putting together packs of work for pupils, some of which would be sent home with the pupils in the event of school closures, and some of which would be uploaded to the school website on a regular basis, which the children would be able to access from home. If access to the internet at home is not possible, we ask parents and carers in this situation to inform the school office, so that we can form an alternative plan for these pupils. We've also taken the decision to cancel or postpone Educational Visits for the rest of this term.

You may also be aware the Government issued updated guidance in other areas, which we are taking heed of and following. Now, should your child exhibit even mild signs of Covid-19, which has been defined as a new, continuous cough or high temperature, you should ensure they self-isolate for a period of 7 days. Our staff have been advised that they must do the same. Based on the new advice, while our schools remain open, we are going to defer all Educational Visits.

We should all of course be extra vigilant and responsible, and we are encouraging the whole school community to continue to take the additional precautions that has been the case for several days now, including maintaining high levels of personal hygiene, regularly washing hands and following the *Catch it, Bin it, Kill it* advice when sneezing or coughing. As you would expect, we already promote these practices within school and we would appreciate your support in continuing to encourage the same at home.



TRANSFORMING LIFE CHANCES

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Anyone returning from the identified countries of concern and experiencing specific health concerns, related symptoms or with general medical enquiries should contact 111 and not visit their local GP Surgery or A&E.

The latest Government advice, which is constantly being updated is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public> this includes steps that can be taken to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including Coronavirus, and as a school we are following these closely.

As a school, we take our duty of care extremely seriously and we will keep you updated on any further developments should the need arise. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Cormac Murphy
Head Teacher