



13th March 2020

Dear Parent

I am writing to you to keep you informed about the plans that I am putting in place in the event of a school closure at New Close school. You will be aware from the news that the situation is under continuous review by the government; I receive regular updates from public health officials and I would like to reassure you that all decisions are being made on the basis of scientific advice, with the very best interests of students, families and parents at heart.

At the time of writing, the intention is not to close New Close school. However, that could change with very little notice and we have to be prepared should circumstances dictate that closure becomes necessary. The most likely reasons for closure are:

- Insufficient staffing levels due to illness.
- A government order to close.

Should a case, or suspected case, of coronavirus be identified in the community, there is a clear procedure to follow. This eventuality, in itself, does not necessarily mean closure under current guidance. The procedure will be led by the local health protection team in conjunction with academy leadership. In such an eventuality, rest assured I will contact you urgently.

Meanwhile, the advice is that you should self-isolate at home for seven days if you have a recent onset of:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- High temperature

If your child has these symptoms then you should now take steps to keep them at home and not leave the house for seven days from when their symptoms started. This will help to protect others in the community while they are infectious. Anyone displaying symptoms should not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

If you decide you need to keep your child at home and self-isolate you do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them they are staying at home and Public Health England will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms.

Should you need to self-isolate, we have prepared a pack of resources that will enable your child to continue their learning at home. Please inform school of absences in the normal way.

You can view the guidance around self-isolation online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

I would like to thank you for your patience and support in this difficult period. I will be in touch again to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Kilminster
Headteacher

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