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Dear Parents / Carers

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AS THIS CONTAINS NEW INFORMATION

With recent developments around COVID-19 (Coronavirus), I want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to keep up-to-speed with the latest government (Public Health England) advice and will share any new precautionary measures the school takes as, and when, necessary.

Clearly, there are strong actions being taking by government to reduce the risk of this particular coronavirus virus spreading. At this stage, the English Government have **not** informed us that they are intending to close schools, however, this is an ever-changing situation, and as a result, we are moving through our contingency and response plans in order to respond to a variety of new scenarios.

Prior to this week's announcement from government (Public Health England), the school has been operating using the Stage 2 (Prevention) guidance. Within Stage 2, we have undertaken the following measures:

- increased cleaning regime;
- increased handwashing protocol;
- educate the children about the coronavirus and alleviate any concerns / questions they may have;
- postponed school assemblies (class led assemblies instead);
- staggered lunch periods to achieve smaller gatherings in the hall;
- postponed future planned events;
- ensure adequate stock of soap, toilet paper, antibacterial wipes, paper towels, etc.
- continue to provide parental updates via the school website / newsletter / emails;
- ensuring that class pages are ready for uploading content in cases of remote learning.



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Walford has now moved into the Stage 3 (Mitigate / Delay) phase and the following preparations are already in place:

- postponing Class / Share Your Talent Assemblies;
- postponing future events, e.g., KS2 Oscars, etc;
- postponing / cancelling school trips and sports tournaments;
- postponing all training events for staff;
- ensuring up-to-date information of contact details of children and families including mobile phones, email, home addresses, etc.;
- setting up of children's login details to aid home learning, e.g., Education City, Times Tables Rock Stars, MyOn, etc.;
- home-learning work packs are already in place;
- asking all volunteers to pause from coming into school as this again minimises any potential contraction/spread of the virus.

In addition, some of the following difficult decisions are now being made:

- children with a high temperature and/or new persistent cough will be sent home and asked to household-isolate for 14 days;
- providing support and guidance to families who have one or more member displaying COVID-19 symptoms (14-day household isolation);
- no longer sending reading books home – children will be directed to utilise FREE websites and apps to access a wide range of reading material;
- cease the use of iPads / shared resources (for increased hygiene measures).
- staff who are at increased risk of severe illness are being strongly advised to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures;

Should we need to move into Stage 4 (Part-Containment), where there is a significant number of staff/children absent but advice is for schools to remain open:

- classes will be split across the school;
- current curriculum provision will be revised;
- classes will be closed;
- after-school clubs / wrap-around care will be cancelled.

In the event of classes being closed, teachers will provide:

- work packs for home learning;
- daily updates on the Class Pages on the school website;
- suggested quality FREE online website / app resources and suggested live lessons;
- daily dialogue between teacher / children via emails and Showbie;
- teachers to provide additional projects and longer tasks as and when appropriate.



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In Stage 5 (Full Containment), where whole school-closure takes place, teachers will provide:

- work packs for home learning;
- daily updates on the Class Pages on the school website;
- suggested quality FREE online website / app resources and suggested live lessons;
- daily dialogue between teacher / children via emails and Showbie;
- teachers to provide additional projects and longer tasks as and when appropriate.

Finally...for many of us, this is an entirely new situation that we are dealing with and I wish to assure you that we are doing our best to make the right decision for our whole school community, taking advice from the government (Public Health England), DfE and our local authority.

Our resources will be stretched for some time so please direct any serious concerns to us but also do allow us good time to respond. I would be most grateful if you would avoid publicising any concerns on social media – we are doing our very best to protect you and your children and appreciate your continued understanding and support.

Yours sincerely



Ms L. George
Headteacher



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