



Leppington, Birch Hill, Bracknell, RG12 7WW  
Headteacher: Michael Dillon B Ed (Hons) MA

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

### **Covid-19 Update**

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Government has updated advice in respect of Covid-19 on Monday 16 March. Schools remain open, but the Prime Minister announced that if one person in any household starts to display symptoms, **everyone living at that house must stay at home for 14 days**. This is a change from previous guidance issued on Thursday 12 March.

If your child or anyone in your household has one or two symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), your son/daughter must not attend school and should stay at home for 14 days along with other members of the household.

Symptoms are:

- new continuous cough (eg. dry and persistent, a continuous cough that does not stop throughout the day) and/or
- high temperature

Please see link below for guidance regarding isolating individuals and families:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

We expect this new advice to mean significant staff absence. We do have plans in place to keep classes covered and provide the children with a safe environment and effective teaching and learning opportunity. However, this will not always be easy and we may have to do things differently, including, combining classes or partial closure of the school.

Ensuring we have enough staff to prepare and cook school meals will be a particular challenge. Our first priority is the provision of Free School Meals (FSM) across the school and then Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) for those in Year R, 1 and 2. So we can continue to offer a hot meal to every child who wants one in every year group, we may make changes to our current menu. We may also ask parents to send their children to school with a packed lunch. We may not be able to cater for children with allergies but will contact you if this is the case.

We have also considered other action to support 'social distancing' to help delay the spread of the virus. As from today, we will take the following steps:

- There will be no assemblies held in school – key messages will be delivered through class assemblies only.
- We are postponing the Reception trip to Lockey farm
- We are postponing the Year 3/4 play
- We are postponing any Family Learning Workshops
- We have been informed that Bracknell Forest outdoor sporting events have been cancelled for the time being.
- At the moment, Friends' Present Room will continue.

We are taking advice as to whether or not to stop offering after school activities and we will advise you of any changes to these. In addition, we will be talking to Koosa about their intentions for the Easter holidays, however it is likely that they will follow school policies and government advice.

We will consider other measures as and when we get further advice.

I know many parents will be concerned about the impact the current situation may have on SATS and the other assessments the children are due to take in May / June. While my immediate focus is the health and safety of pupils and their families, clearly the longer-term impact on their education is a concern too. We will be guided by Department for Education (DfE).

If we were to close, we have drawn up plans to provide work for children via our website. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide any home learning for children who are currently at home, as staff are continuing to plan and teach. Details of this will be available when this happens.

We will use Teacher to Parents, social media and our website to communicate with you during any closure.

We anticipate receiving further guidance from the DfE and Local Authority and as it is received, I will update parents in due course. As a school, we are acutely aware of the anxiety within our community and nationally during these unprecedented times. Thank you for your support and cooperation and we will keep you informed in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Dillon  
Headteacher