



# The Dove Federation

Executive



Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Disney

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Dear Parents

In the light of advice from government and Public Health England (PHE) we want to assure you that we are responding to Covid 19 in a sensible and measured way.

If your child is showing signs of illness, specifically

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough,

then the advice from the NHS is to stay at home and self-isolate for 7 days.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Any absence due to this illness will be authorised.

If your child is not ill, but is absent from school, the absence will not be authorised. We cannot make this decision for you, but advise you to phone 111 if you need any specific or further advice. If you think you might have the Covid-19 please go to <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

In the current situation and the need for families to take additional precautions if they have a high temperature or new continuous cough I will not be rewarding attendance for this term and until further notice. If children are kept off school, who do not have any symptoms, this will be unauthorized in line with the guidance from the Local Authority. If a child's attendance is of a concern due to unauthorized absence, I will be writing to you to remind you of the importance of attending school. If the situation does not improve, you could end up with a fast track to improving attendance notice and a fine from the Local Authority.

Current guidance for those needing to self-isolate can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

You should:

- try to keep at least 2 metres (3 steps) from other people in your home, particularly older people or those with long-term health conditions
- ask friends and family and delivery services to deliver things like food shopping and medicines – but avoid contact with them
- sleep alone if possible
- regularly wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- try to stay away from older people and those with long-term health conditions
- drink plenty of water and take everyday painkillers, such as paracetamol and ibuprofen, to help with your symptoms

Please remember, for self-isolation, you should not leave the house for the entire 7-day period. Current guidance is that only the person with symptoms needs to self-isolate and that the rest of the family can continue to attend school and work. We will of course update you on this guidance should it change.

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10*

Can we also insist that all children bring their own water bottle each day, as we will not be using the water fountains as a precautionary measure. These will be covered and a 'not in use' sign put up.

If you would like to send your child in with hand sanitiser as an additional measure, then please ensure this is labelled with their name so it can be kept securely in the classroom. All classes will have boxes of tissues available. These will be used and binned. Cleaning staff will empty these daily as well as cleaning and sanitising door handles etc.

Today we have made the decision to hold our Easter service behind closed doors and at school; this means that unfortunately only pupils and school staff will be allowed to attend. I know that this will be of a disappointment to many of you but we are trying our utmost in these difficult times to be extra vigilant and think about the wider school community. I would also ask that until further notice parents/carers do not attend celebration collective worship. All future trips and activities will be risk assessed as they arise and a decision made as to whether they go ahead.

We will continue to advise children to wash their hands on a regular basis and ask that as parents/carers you also remind them of the importance of washing their hands. Further guidance on how to do this can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQCP7waTRWU&feature=youtu.be&safe=active>

Teachers have begun to think about how we can provide work for pupils if we are to enter into a forced closure. We have set aside a blank exercise book for each child and will be providing work for each day via email. The work provided will not need to be printed out and can be completed in the provided book. We will also send out links to work and activities that pupils can complete online. If, and when, this happens we will notify you as soon as possible.

Many thanks to you all for maintaining a sensible and measured approach. We will continue to follow the advice for PHE and central government and will inform you of any changes as they occur.

Kind regards

Mrs Disney

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