



16.3.2020

Dear parents/carers,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at Eastington we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and GCC

### **What's the current situation?**

- › The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- › All school functions continue to run as normal
- › Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms, they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
  - › a new, continuous cough and/or
  - › a temperature
- › If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by calling the school office: 01453 822922
- › We'll keep you up to date with any significant changes to the current situation
- › Advice sought today from the education helpline stated that if a pupil is self-isolating due to one of the above symptoms, that other children in the family should self-isolate too. In addition self-isolation is from 7 days from the onset of the symptom. If children are well/symptom free after this 7 day period they should return to school.

### **What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff**

- › We continue with regular hand-washing for children and adults
- › We have identified a space in school to isolate a pupil (or adult) if we are concerned about a potential coronavirus case on site until they can be collected by parents/carers.
- › We continue with our daily cleaning schedule
- › We will answer questions children have about corona virus in a calm way, reiterating information/advice given by the Government/DfE
- › PA events will continue. However, they will be reviewed near the event time and possible postponed. If they are postponed, we will inform you via text/e-mail/website calendar.
- › We are preparing two-week work packs for each child ready for distribution in case of school closure. We know this is not the same as learning time in school, but it will help children to keep basic skills active and keep children in a working and learning routine. We use several apps which your children can use too. We will resend you the login details.
- › Phonics Play (very useful for Rec-Y2) are offering free logins to parents if/when schools are closed. Do take advantage of using this.

Twinkl is offering free access to parents for a month if schools close – you can find printable resources here for further work for your child. Setting this up is really easy to do - go to [www.twinkl.co.uk/offer](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer) and enter the code UKTWINKLHELPS

### What we need you to do

- › If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**
- › Talk to your children about the coronavirus. We should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- › Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)

### What happens if the school must close?

We will only close if we are either advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school. If staffing is an issue for specific classes we will aim to get cover for that class or close that specific class while keeping the rest of the school open.

In either case, we will:

- › Alert parents of closure via text/e-mail.
- › Alert parents of school reopening by text/e-mail.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

### Information sources:

Please consult the:

- › [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- › Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- › Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It is a difficult time and we know many are uncertain about the impact coronavirus might have. It is important we keep each other safe and calmly respond to the situation as it develops and to the advice as it changes.

Thank you for your continued support,

Zoe Avastu