

## **Woodnewton – a learning community**

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17 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

### **COVID-19 Update**

In the ever-changing circumstances around Covid-19 (Coronavirus), we know everyone has concerns. The guidance released from the UK Government, the Department of Education and Public Health England are those we are following in continuing to open our Academy.

With this in mind, we must continue to be secure environments for all. We have increased hygiene measures within our setting and made some changes to ensure learning continues in a fun, exciting yet safe manner. We must consider however, the effects of increased absences of staff and children in our assessment of ensuring the Academy is still able to open safely. These considerations are made by the Senior Leadership Team on a daily basis and ultimately may lead to partial / full closure of the Academy. We are doing everything possible to avoid this, however it is important that our communities are aware of the procedures should the Academy need to close.

If we need to close we will post this on our website, Twitter, Facebook and send information on our SchoolComms system. Please ensure you are checking these daily and have signed up to our SchoolComms system.

Regarding activities due to take place outside of the Academy premises:

In light of the Prime Minister, Chief Scientific Officer and Chief Medical Officer's 5pm statement of Monday 16 March 2020 asking the public to avoid all non-essential contact with others and all non-essential travel, we have made the decision to cancel all Academy trips, fixtures and events with immediate effect, until at least the Easter holidays. Where possible we will try to reschedule events at a later date.

We know the children will be extremely disappointed but we must follow the advice on social distancing (please see link below to gov.uk advice). Where there are financial costs involved we will update families of any possible refunds as and when we have a clearer picture.

<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>

Yesterday, the Government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started
- if you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

- › for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

The symptoms are:

- › A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- › A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

- › <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

The Prime Minister's statement from Monday 16 March can be found here:

- › <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-coronavirus-16-march-2020>

We will keep you updated regularly in line with UK Government, DfE and Public Health England guidelines.

As always, thank you for your continued support at this extremely difficult time for us all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Glyn Rushton', written in a cursive style.

Glyn Rushton - Principal