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Executive Principal: Caroline Thayre

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Update Covid-19 as of 18th March 2020

Further to our previous letters, I am writing to confirm further outcomes for our Academy following up to date information from the Government.

From today, all clubs and enrichment activities provided by outside agencies are cancelled including swimming. All lettings have also been cancelled from today restricting social interaction gatherings. All non-essential meetings at the Academy and non-essential visitors to the Trust have been cancelled. All Academy and Key Stage assemblies have also been suspended; pupils will receive their weekly awards in their classrooms.

Currently, Extended Schools is operating as normal but Robsack Rascals will operate from the Reception classrooms from today until further notice. Please collect via the nursery entrance. Breakfast Buddies will remain in the Treehouse unless we notify you differently.

In line with the Government guidelines received yesterday, we have been asked to identify any pupils who are at increased risk of serious illness, and confirm to parents that those families should be following the social distancing measures – given below. If you think that your child falls into any of the categories given below, please ensure that they remain at home.

Below is the guidance of serious illness:

- chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
- chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
- diabetes
- problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
- being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)

Any pupils who fall into the category below should remain at home due to complex health problems such as:

- children who have received an organ transplant and remain on ongoing immunosuppression medication
- children with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- children with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia who are at any stage of treatment
- children with severe chest conditions such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma (requiring hospital admissions or courses of steroid tablets)
- children with severe diseases of body systems, such as severe kidney disease (dialysis)

What is social distancing?

Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). They are:

1. Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough.
2. Avoid non-essential use of public transport, varying your travel times to avoid rush hour, when possible.
3. Avoid large gatherings, and gatherings in smaller public spaces such as pubs, cinemas, restaurants, theatres, bars, clubs.
4. Avoid gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media.
5. Use telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential services.

To summarise, these are very trying and difficult times for us all. At present the Government is directing that all schools and academies remain open. However, this is causing additional pressures on us, and we ask for your complete co-operation in the circumstances.

We are following Government guidelines stringently. We cannot advise you as to a decision about your child/children – you have to make this yourself. The Academy is exceptionally busy at the moment and the telephone lines are also busier than normal. We do ask you to notify the Academy about the absence of your child/children through our absence line, quoting quite clearly why your child is absent, i.e. they have symptoms of Covid-19, or you as a family are self-isolating because one of your family has symptoms, you have a vulnerable person in your family and are self-isolating, or because you have chosen to do so in the circumstances. Self-isolation should be for 14 days. There will be NO repercussions as far as your child's attendance is concerned.

As an Academy, we always do the best we can for the wellbeing of our pupils, but please bear in mind, we are operating under extremely difficult circumstances, and remain open at the moment, staffing levels permitted. We need your support in following our guidelines.

Yours sincerely



Miss C Thayre
Executive Principal