

13th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Following yesterday's announcement, I thought it timely to update you.

The Government's latest advice is that, if you have a high temperature or a "new, continuous cough" then you should self-isolate for seven days. We would ask you to inform us if your child needs to do this as we need to record all those children and staff who will be at home self-isolating with a start and end date. Many thanks for your support.

We have had some parents asking if the Academy is closed. **Can I emphasise that if the Academy is to close, we will text you.** Unless you hear from us, assume school is open. Please make sure that we have your correct mobile number if you are not sure.

In order to limit cross contamination, we have reviewed drinking water at school. Please could we ask that, if you want your child to drink water during the day other than at lunchtime, they bring in a water bottle from home, clearly labelled. We will provide disposable cups, but we do not want to use excessive plastic.

As I mentioned last week, the children have all been taught, using a range of materials recommended by the Department of Education, how to wash their hands effectively as well as the importance of using a tissue when sneezing. As part of daily practice, we are still following the Government's advice to educational settings and children are continuing with the hand washing regime.

I know that some children have developed dry or sore hands and I would like to thank families for helping us with this situation by providing such things as alternative hand wash or cream. To help ease things, we have also ordered some new, milder soap for the children to use. This soap is equally effective in killing germs.

In addition, we are still ensuring all spaces in school have tissues available and we are using the "catch it, bin it, kill it" message with the children.

As and when the situation changes, I will be in contact. Please see below links for all the latest information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Kind regards

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