



The Winchcombe School

Maple Crescent, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 1LN

Tel: 01635 232780 Fax: 01635 232789

Email: office@winchcombe.w-berks.sch.uk

Website: www.winchcombe.w-berks.sch.uk

Achieve, Believe, Care

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the Government's press conference yesterday, the guidance regarding the Coronavirus has been updated. We urge you to continue to watch the news and follow the general advice issued:

- If you have a new persistent cough, are finding it difficult to breathe, have a high temperature, or a combination of these symptoms, please stay at home for 7 days if you live alone or isolate yourselves as a family for 14 days if one person in the household has symptoms.
- All non-essential travel should be avoided.
- Pubs, clubs and theatres should be avoided.
- All social gatherings should be avoided.
- If you display no symptoms then carry on as normal.

School staff are not medical experts and are not in a position to offer any further advice, but we urge you to act in a way that you feel is appropriate for your family. The school will support you in whatever you decide to do in your family's best interests.

Pupils who are displaying symptoms and are off school will have their attendance coded as 'I' for ill. Pupils who are off school because the family are self-isolating will have their attendance coded as 'Y' - exceptional circumstances. Please inform the school if your child is absent due to illness or self-isolation.

Currently, schools are expected to stay open. We will continue to follow the guidance and advised hygiene measures. However, should we find ourselves in a position where we do not have enough staff to look after the children safely, we will have to close some classes, phases or all of the school.

If the school does close, work will be made available via the school website or other online platforms. We will provide more information on this in due course. Please inform the office if you do not have access to the internet so alternative arrangements can be made.

There are some measures that we are taking to help ensure we adhere to government guidelines. We will not be having any assemblies for the foreseeable future - *this includes both class and praise assemblies*. Any workshops, express events, parents' evenings and sports fixtures are now cancelled.

We will keep you informed as more guidance is released. Please stay safe and follow the advice issued.

Yours sincerely

Neil Pilsworth
Headteacher