

Dear Parents,

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you to keep you informed about the school's response to the situation regarding the Coronavirus. As ever, the safety and welfare of our pupils is paramount, as well as that of the staff and our parents. I hope that the following information will prove reassuring and useful.

- As a school we receive a direct, daily update from the department for Education and Public Health England. This includes advice around what to do if a member of our school suspects that they have the virus or been tested to confirm that they have.
- We have access to a direct helpline for schools where we will be given accurate and up to date advice for whatever scenario we are presented with.
- Should we have a suspected or confirmed case of the virus, the two most probable courses of action we would be advised to take would be as follows.
 - 1) We would close the school while a deep clean takes place. We cannot guarantee how long this would take as it would depend on the availability and size of a cleaning team. We would, of course, seek any closure for this purpose to be for as short a time as possible.
 - 2) We would close the school for a longer period of time if it was advised that large numbers of people needed to self-isolate.
- We would communicate using all our channels of communication should this be the case and keep you updated as regularly as we can (via text message and on our website).
- In the case of the school needing to close, all children will be provided with work that they can complete at home in their homework books - self-quizzing, Hegarty Maths, Tassomai Science.
- If parents choose to keep their child at home outside of the times of closure as specified by the school under the direction of external guidance, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. This will not be the case where the school has informed families that it is to be closed.
- During assemblies all children are being reminded of the importance of hand washing and other ways to stop the spread of germs. If families can reinforce this at home it would be a great way to show the children that we are working together.
- We would ask families to keep us informed of any suspected illness and also of planned travel or return from restricted areas.
- **Year 11 & 13 - should the school be affected by a closure during the examination period in May / June, exam boards have reserve dates in the week after the exam season. Therefore, please ensure that your son/daughter is available right up to 24th June 2020.**

If there is any change to this information I will be in touch with you. In the meantime, I will continue to review the daily bulletin that I am provided with for up to date advice for schools. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

AS Frier

Anita Frier
Executive Principal