



Simmondley Primary School

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13th March 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing this letter following the news that the Prime Minister and his team announced that the UK is moving to the 'Delay' phase of the plan to tackle Covid-19.

Under the advice of Public Health England, up until this point the school has been following a 'business as usual' policy. The impact so far has been very minimal very little (if any) change from the usual pattern of school life. Of course we've been encouraging pupils, staff and visitors to wash hands more regularly, disinfecting common surfaces and directing members of the community to call 111 as and when necessary. We've also been making preparations for if the school is asked to close at some point in the future. However, we're not facing that issue just yet.

The announcement that foreign trips are not to take place does not directly affect us as we don't have any planned.

More immediately significant to us is the news that all people with new, persistent coughs and/or fevers, even if mild, should self-isolate for 7 days. Given how the virus seems to affect people of different ages differently, we may well find ourselves in a situation where the majority of children are able to attend school whilst a proportion of adults are in self-isolation. It's impossible to tell how many that may be and when they may self-isolate, or for how long, and so it's fair to assume that there may be some disruption to school life.

This disruption may vary from a few classes that need cover each day right through to the school having to part or fully close due to an inability to safely supervise the pupils. Classes may need to be split.

Please note we are not cancelling any of our events at the moment, although we would ask that you understand this is a fast moving situation and we are reliant on updates from Public Health England. We will inform you as soon as we are able to if we are advised to cancel events.

It will be important that we communicate with parents as soon as we can when there is a chance of disruption and as such you may notice more messages coming from school and more updates on the school website. In all that we do we will adhere to the following three principles:

1. Safeguard our children and staff
2. Keep the education of students going as normally as possible
3. Maintain support for the most vulnerable members of the community

We will be following Public Health England guidance at all times, and really appreciate your support with this situation.

Kind regards

Mrs Greaves