

14 March 2020

Dear parents and carers

Coronavirus update

Yesterday the Government's COBRA committee decided to move to a new phase in its fight against coronavirus, with updated advice about how to delay the spread of the disease. This new advice does not require all schools to shut so Netherfield remains open for all healthy students and staff.

The key message from the Government is now that anyone with symptoms of coronavirus – specifically a new, continuous dry cough or fever (a temperature over 37.8 degrees) should stay at home in self-isolation for seven days.

You do not need to ring NHS 111 to self-isolate, unless symptoms continue for more than seven days, but we would of course ask you to notify school in the usual way with any absences.

Full details of the new key messages from the Government – and what exactly self-isolation means - can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

As an academy, we are following Government advice closely, and will update information with you as the situation develops.

We will be reiterating to the children, the advice about good hygiene practice, in particular regular and thorough hand washing. Please support us by encouraging your child, and family members, to follow this advice at all times. We are also taking additional cleaning measures within school in line with national advice.

If there is a confirmed case of coronavirus amongst our academy community, we will follow advice from Public Health England's Local Health Protection Team. Any decision in relation to closure will be taken on the basis of the information available at that time. In the meantime, the school will remain open. If at any time in the future we need to close, we will let you know immediately.

Within school we are also planning how to continue supporting children with school work in the event they need to self-isolate or if there is an enforced school closure. We will send you more details about the specifics of this in the next few days.

I understand that these are uncertain times and there may be some disruption ahead, but we will continue to keep you updated on developments and I can assure you that as a key part of this community Netherfield will continue to follow all relevant advice and work to ensure the very best for all our children and their families.

Yours sincerely

J Crone
Headteacher