



"Where every person matters"

16 March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. Specific guidelines are continually being updated as understanding of the COVID -19 virus progresses and I want to reassure you all that the health and safety of our young people, staff and visitors remains a key priority. We are focusing very much on preventative measures, whilst ensuring the learning environment remains safe and calm.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions currently continue to run as normal after school including breakfast & after school club
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough
 - a temperature (over 37.8 degrees)
 - If your child is unwell, report this using normal procedures, ensuring that symptoms are clearly stated
- Currently, exams are still scheduled to run on scheduled dates
- Educational visits to parks and open-air spaces will continue as normal, whereas all other trips will be cancelled until further notice. Any residentials are currently under review pending advice
- In light of advice re large gatherings we have decided to postpone the Year 10/11 Parents Evening next week. Information will be posted as usual and phone communication with key staff can be arranged
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- At the current time, we are prioritising hygiene and travel to keep everyone safe





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- > We are in close contact with GFM in relation to the rigorous cleaning procedures
- > If a student feels ill whilst at school we will immediately take their temperature and will contact you if we feel that there is a need for them to be self-isolated.
- > Lessons are being planned for pupils about hygiene and how to deal with anxiety. This is being differentiated according to need.
- > Students at the internship will receive separate communication in relation to alternative placements for those who are based at the football club.

What we need you to do

- > If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**
- > Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- > Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)

The current guidance states that to close schools would have a greater detrimental effect than to remain open. As always at Redwood we will endeavor to offer the highest quality provision for as long as it is deemed safe to do so and there are currently no plans to close. If, however, we are instructed differently we will use our usual channels to communicate with families.

I realise that this is an unprecedented situation and that you must all be worried about the impact this might have on our community. It is important to maintain a sense of perspective whilst keeping each other safe and sharing concerns to help with any anxiety.

Contact Numbers/helpful links

- > [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- > Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- > Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



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Ms C John
Headteacher