

Dear Parent / Carer

Unsurprisingly, the situation regarding Covid-19 is changing rapidly. Yesterday we had two members of self-isolating. Following the Prime Minister's update yesterday evening, that number has risen to thirteen today. Those members of staff will be absent from school for the next fourteen days.

We are able to cover classes today but, clearly, we will not be able to cope easily with further staff absences. There are a number of steps that I can take before moving to a full school closure, primarily asking certain year groups to stay at home on a rotation basis. I don't need to take that decision yet but I fear that I will have to shortly. I will, of course, inform you of such a step as soon as I take it.

In the event of a full closure, we will continue to operate a skeleton staff in school. There will be three teams, operating on a rotation, one led by me, and the other two led by my Deputy Heads, Dr Rowley and Mr Fletcher. These teams will supervise children of emergency service/NHS workers if required; they will pick up and respond to emails concerning work that has been set or logon issues and they will endeavour to keep channels of communication with parents open.

We are still receiving requests for advice over whether children should self-isolate. I can only refer you to the NHS advice that I sent out yesterday and to take heed of the advice given by the Prime Minister and his scientific advisers yesterday. Please note that the recommended period for self-isolation for those who live with other people has increased to 14 days. I would also like to add that I am aware that we normally adopt a 'hard line' stance towards school attendance. We completely understand that these are exceptional times and have great empathy with you as you make this decision. Please also continue to remind your children about the crucial importance of hand hygiene.

I suspect that I will be in further contact this week but I hope that this update has been helpful.

Yours sincerely

N D Finlay
Headteacher