



Monday 16th March 2020

Delay Phase Measures - Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wrote to you on Friday outlining new measures the schools across our Trust have put in place now that the government strategy has moved to what they describe as the Delay Phase. Being part of the Trust has been invaluable in working together and supporting each other to meet the challenges of this situation.

We met with members of the Belleville governing body this morning to outline what this means for our school.

The government has **not** decided to close schools and as we write we do not have any indication that they will close schools in the near future.

We are taking pro-active measures that go beyond current government guidance in an effort to protect our children, families, staff and the wider community as much as we can.

The situation and guidance of course may change.

We will communicate any changes to you via email on Parentmail and via the school website if we are required to close at short notice.

Action for parents and carers: Please ensure we have the correct email and contact numbers for you.

Health guidance

New guidance has been provided from Public Health England which state that you should stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

This will help to protect others in the community while you are infectious.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

They will not be testing those self-isolating with mild symptoms.

Self-declaration for adults

When adults are coming into school, we will be asking whether they have any of the symptoms above and if so, they will not be allowed on site. We will also restrict the non-essential movement of adult visitors around site wherever possible.

We will be putting new signage up today to reflect this – we appreciate your understanding in us asking these questions of you as parents and carers as well as of other visitors.

Children who become ill in school

If children are showing the symptoms above we will be calling you to collect your child/children as soon as possible.

Action for parents and carers: Please ensure we have at least two up to date contact numbers for your child(ren).

Hygiene measures around school

We are continuing to expect children and adults to regularly sanitise and/or wash their hands. We have also increased the cleaning of the toilets during the school day and re-directed our cleaners on both sites to focus on high contact areas when they are cleaning around school e.g. door handles and hand rails.

Reducing non-essential activities – visits and visitors

As we wrote to you last week, we will be reducing and stopping non-essential activities, particularly where they involve children going off-site and/or involve large numbers of people.

To provide further clarification, the following activities **will go ahead with the checks on health** as described above:

- Part time teachers e.g. gymnastics, dance, ICT, Wandsworth music service instrumental lessons and tuition
- Parent/carer volunteers in school e.g. for reading
- In school provision e.g. individual guests for a children's assembly
- Special needs provision e.g. play therapists, speech and language therapists
- Parent/carer group meetings e.g. Parent Gym session, Eco-parent meeting in the evening - these are optional and therefore you can decide if you wish to attend
- Extra-curricular clubs - these are beyond the school day and you can therefore decide if you wish your child to attend

The following activities **will not be going ahead until further notice:**

- Swimming lessons at Latchmere for Year 4
- Inter-school sports competitions e.g. Golden league football on Thursdays, gymnastics competitions, dance competitions, girls football at London Youth Games
- Off-site trips e.g. Year 3 to Saatchi Gallery, Year 4 to Wetlands Centre, Year 5 to Greenwich, Year 6 to Natural History Museum
- Large performances in school:
 - Year 6 massed singing rehearsal at Burntwood on Wednesday 18th March
 - Year 4 instrumental performance to parents and carers on Thursday 19th March
 - Year 6 singing performance to parents/carers on Wednesday 25th March
 - Year 6 performance at Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday 1st April
- Family assemblies: IS, IB and IG

We understand that this may cause disappointment for you and your children and appreciate your understanding of the changes.

Preparation in case of closure

We are working, along with other schools and staff from the Trust, on preparing learning materials and wellbeing support for your children to access via the school website in case of closure. We will shortly be sending home an exercise book and basic stationery to all children to keep at home.

Action for parents and carers: Please let your child's class teacher know if you do not have access to the internet at home so we can make alternative arrangements.

Support for families: Managing anxiety

This is an anxious and uncertain time for many of us. Please do come and talk with us or any senior staff if you have concerns.

You may find the following resources useful in talking to your child/managing anxieties about Coronavirus:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51734855>

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-for-children/>

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/coping-with-coronavirus-anxiety-2020031219183>

Support for families: Practical help in the event of school closure

We have some families who will find a school closure more difficult.

Action for parents and carers: If any parents or carers would like to contribute any non-perishable food or sanitary items that can be distributed to families in our school community, please bring these to the school offices. This will be shared on an honesty basis. If your family will need any of these items please email the school in confidence or speak to ourselves or any member of staff.

We know that the changes we are making will have an impact on you and your children.

This is an exceptional situation and our priority is to do what we can, to help keep our children and our wider community safe.

We are extremely grateful to you for all your support and for working with us.

Yours,

Sarah Atherton
Headteacher Juniors

Mary-Lyne Latour
Headteacher Infants