

# The Grove Primary School

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Headteacher Ms Karen Martin



Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 12 noon

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Coronavirus – School Update

I am writing following the government update given yesterday afternoon. This is a changing situation and I will do my best to keep you all updated.

### Current Advice includes

If you or anyone in your household has symptoms of the coronavirus

- New persistent cough and/or
- Fever and/or
- Flu-like symptoms

then in line with the NHS 'Stay at Home' guidance **the entire family should self-isolate for 14 days.**

In addition, we have been advised that if your child falls within any of the categories listed below then you should keep them at home for 12 weeks.

The categories are listed as medical conditions where a flu jab is normally advised -

- chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma (that requires an inhaler or tablet steroid treatment, or has led to hospital admission in the past)
- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
- chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
- diabetes
- problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
- being seriously overweight (a BMI of 40 or above)

As a school, we are continuing to prepare for the eventuality of the school closing and are making arrangements for distance learning.

I would be grateful if you could inform the office **if you do not have access to the internet at home on an iPad or laptop for your child to use.** We want to be able to identify anyone that is not able to access learning on-line.

We currently have four members of staff self-isolating.

- one teacher as a result of a member of their family needing to self-isolate
- one teaching assistant
- one member of the office team
- one member of our midday team.

In addition, we have seven members of staff who are away from school due to being in one of the vulnerable categories.

- one teacher, Miss Holland as she is pregnant
- two teaching assistants
- four members of the midday team

We are currently juggling our staff to manage all the absences.

**Can you help members of our school community? – food donations**

As a school, we support some of our families through providing food parcels. We are keen to continue to do this and as we see the supermarkets shelves emptying, we are asking if our parent community as well as the staff community could donate some dry goods. If every family donated just one item, we would be able to continue to support families in need. If you can contribute, please bring them to the office.

I understand that these are worrying times for everyone but please be assured we are taking as many precautions as we can to try to help our school community stay well and healthy.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement during this period.



Ms Karen Martin  
Headteacher