

The Coppice Primary School

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Covid-19 precautions

Dear parents/carers,

As you will all be aware, the Covid-19 virus is gaining a pace. Hardly a day goes by without the media impressing upon us that the situation is worsening in the UK. A most recent sound-bite being that we are on the same trajectory as Italy. It is important, as a school, that we keep a perspective on this and do not get drawn into the hysteria. However, we are also duty-bound to make sensible decisions around this.

At present there seems to be a commonly held opinion by experts that the virus will keep spreading and it will impact on all communities. However, at present, the advice seems to be that we do our utmost to slow the process of this spread (hence the emphasis on washing hands - which all children in school have been tutored in). With this in mind, some schools have now started to cancel events which promote the gathering of significant groups of people. This has included class assemblies and parents' evenings. Accordingly, until further notice, we are cancelling all events that bring extra people into school in significant numbers. This includes the coming parents' evenings, and, after this Friday, all class assemblies.

I appreciate that some parents may feel this would have limited impact, but, I reiterate, this is about minimising risk and doing our bit to slow the progress of this virus (no doubt, eventually, it will be with us).

I am sure families are already taking their own precautions, so, without meaning to sound patronising, from hereon, please be mindful when you are on school site during pick-up and drop-off (keeping your two meters' distance wherever practicable and capturing coughs and sneezes etc.).

At present, there is no need for anybody to panic and we want children to keep attending school. Obviously, as things progress, and maybe the virus gains a foothold in our wider community, it would pay families with vulnerable members, with underlying health conditions, to take a more cautious approach.

Rest assured, if we reach a point where we believe that the school population is at threat, we will close the school for a recommended period of time. However, as with any 'snow days' (where The Coppice has a good track record of staying open) this will be an informed decision and not 'knee-jerk'.

Also, please do inform the school if anybody in your close, immediate, family has been asked to self-isolate. This will inform our decision-making in discussions with Public Health England.

Yours sincerely

Bill Heptinstall

