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17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Coronavirus / COVID-19 update 2

As you may be aware the government on Friday stated that their advice was “*Anyone with a “new, continuous” cough or high temperature is now advised to self-isolate for seven days*”. Last night the government changed its guidance to state that “*If you or anyone in your household has one of those two symptoms then you should stay at home for 14 days*”. **We understand this to mean that siblings who do not present symptoms currently should nonetheless also be kept off school and stay at home for 14 days if there is someone in the household who is presenting the ‘new continuous cough or high temperature’ – the symptoms which were detailed in my letter of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

The Coronavirus outbreak is, for our modern times, something that is unprecedented and is almost inevitably going to result in all of us having to do things differently possibly, for quite some time. Having received the latest information and news from the government I now want to outline the implications for us at Berewood Primary School.

### School will remain open at present

The government has announced that, at this present time, schools will remain open, and we will work as hard as possible to keep Berewood Primary School open. The government continues to keep this situation under review and should this change we will let you know immediately if this will affect us. Parents and carers who use *Growing Places@Berewood* can be assured that, following conversations with them today, they will continue to operate as normal at present.

As necessary, I have taken steps to ensure we have as many staff on site as possible on any given day. Meetings and professional learning courses will be thus be cancelled or postponed. Lunch service will of course continue. We have already increased our hygiene measures around the school site to try and limit the spread of germs. To help in this regard, we ask that you do not enter the building unless absolutely necessary, but instead use the intercom in the foyer, email questions to the school office where they will be dealt with during the school day, or telephone if urgent. Our toilet in main entrance reception will also be out of action during this time. Please do not be offended by these changes, we hope you can understand that we are taking these additional measures for the good of the entire school community.

### Visits off site, assemblies and meetings in school

The government has also advised “*that everyone in the UK avoid non-essential contact with others and unnecessary travel*”. In the light of this advice, we will currently not be attending out of school events or trips or holding assemblies in the school day, including inviting parents and carers to celebration assemblies/shows. Volunteers should also refrain from attending school at this time. Access to the school site (including the school office) may have to be limited at times. Please understand that meetings in person with school staff will be restricted to safeguarding matters only. Kindly do not attend in person unless you need to, you can however email us instead at [office@berewoodprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@berewoodprimary.co.uk)

### Staff absence

It is possible that some staff may become ill or have to self-isolate. At this point, I may only decide to take measures such as joining classes or changing parts of the school day so that we can keep children on site. However, if it becomes impossible to safely supervise pupils due to high staff absence rates, it may be that I have to take the very difficult decision to temporarily close the school, either in part for particular

continued

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year groups, or the whole school. The very nature of this possibility means that this decision may have to be taken at short notice, possibly when pupils are already on their way to school or even during the school day. Please be assured that any decision I make will not be taken lightly and will be made with the best intentions to safeguard pupils, parents/carers and staff and will be made with as much notice as possible.

**The decision to close will be posted on the school's website and additionally a message will be sent using the school's email address. In the event that we are forced to close, we will provide resources and support for pupils as efficiently as we can via the school's website at [www.berewoodprimary.co.uk](http://www.berewoodprimary.co.uk)**

### **Pupil absence**

It is important to state that we continue currently to have no reported cases of coronavirus at the school, but some families have been instructed to self-isolate based on recent government guidelines.

As mentioned earlier, last night the government changed its guidance to state that *"If you or anyone in your household has one of those two symptoms then you should stay at home for 14 days"*. **Pupils should not attend school if they or anyone in their household are presenting the 'new continuous cough or high temperature'.**

If you need to keep your child home from school:

- Please make it clear whether your child is ill, self-isolating or has a confirmed case of the virus. If he/she is self-isolating, please tell us when the symptoms started
- Please keep us informed of his/her ongoing condition.
- Please report any other illness in the normal way.

If children present with symptoms whilst at school, our school office will ask you to collect them promptly.

As the situation unfolds, our colleagues are working hard to prepare and research work they would like pupils self-isolating at home to complete. We expect this information to be published to the year group pages of the website (follow links under 'curriculum') during the day tomorrow. Further information on this will be issued once it goes live.

I know this is a worrying time for all parents, pupils and staff particularly as, because the situation changes daily, it can be difficult to keep up with the latest information from the government. I nonetheless feel assured that we will weather this storm together, as a school and a local community and in doing so we hope to ensure the very best outcome for all. I will continue to keep you updated as often as I can.

Please do continue to discuss things with us if you are concerned, but kindly note we can and will only give out general advice in line with that provided to us by Public Health England (PHE). For detailed medical queries or questions please refer to publications from PHE and the NHS. See further information on the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Ricky Leigh  
Headteacher