



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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Friday 13th March 2020

Public Health England Updated Advice to Schools: Coronavirus

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday the government's guidance on the coronavirus changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We are writing to let you know what the school is doing in response and to ask for your help to ensure we are best placed to make sure our school community remains safe. We would like to reassure you that we are taking all necessary steps and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government.

Following the government's statement yesterday the school remains open. This is the current official guidance to schools. We will continue to monitor the advice and have contingency plans in place to deal with higher than usual levels of staff and student absence in the coming weeks.

As we move into the delay phase the school will prioritize its core functions. For this reason, evening bookings, sports fixtures and some events which can be straightforwardly moved to later in the year will be rescheduled. If an event is no longer taking place or is being rescheduled you will be informed via email and SMS in the usual way.

Students should attend school unless they feel unwell. If your child has a new, continuous cough and/or a temperature they should remain at home for 7 days. If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by telephoning 01332 840645. Follow the government advice about use of the 111 phone service which can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

What we need parents and carers to do:

- If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. BBC News Round has regular updates for younger children and the Young Minds charity has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to. We will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough.

The government has advised against all school trips overseas and so the scheduled trip to Austria in April will not now take place. We have contacted the travel company and will continue to liaise with them and with parents and carers to arrange refunds. The government is not currently advising against residential trips in the UK. We will continue to work with trip providers and our own trip leaders to monitor this situation and to update risk assessments. We will continue to keep parents and carers informed as this situation develops.

The examinations regulator, Ofqual, has announced that it recognises that schools, pupils and parents will be feeling concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 exams series. However, the regulator said its advice is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal. The regulator said it was working in conjunction with the DfE and other bodies to plan for a range of

scenarios. Fairness to students and keeping disruption to a minimum will be the priority. We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

In the event the government announces a local or national school closure or if a whole or partial closure is made necessary for any other reason priority will be given to remote provision of tuition for exam classes. Year 11 and Year 13 will be in the first order of priority followed by Year 12 and 10. Teaching and resources will continue to be provided via the Show My Homework platform and using the usual means of home-school communication. If your child has any issues in accessing show my homework then please don't hesitate to contact the school via the info@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk. This will be passed to ICT services who will be happy to help.

If students do not have access to a computer, laptop or tablet or have no access to the internet then please contact the school on 01332 840645 as soon as possible so an alternative provision can be arranged.

Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Nicoll, Deputy Head Teacher. If you have reason to believe that you or your child is directly affected by the issues covered in this letter please inform the school using (01332) 843200 or ronicoll@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,



Robert Nicoll
Deputy Head Teacher



James McNamara
Head Teacher

Helpful contacts:

- NHS, if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use NHS 111 online if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's travel advice, if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead