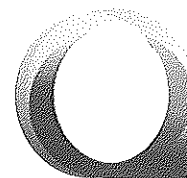




**Sybil Elgar
School**



**National
Autistic
Society**

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Tuesday, 17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers please see the most up to date information we have currently
We will continue to monitor closely the guidance relating to the handling of the
Coronavirus outbreak. This guidance changes daily as the situation unfolds.

Easter holidays: Part of our forward planning in relation to handling the Coronavirus
outbreak is to start to consider the potential impact of travel plans as we approach the
Easter break. We are aware that some staff and students may have plans to travel during
the holiday. Guidance for travellers is changing quickly and it is impossible at this point to
take a firm view about any potential impact of people's travel plans may have on our
school community.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronaviruscovid-19-information-for-the-public>

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

The Department of Education Coronavirus helpline, providing information to and advice
to Staff, parents and young people can be contacted at

0800 046 8687

Anytime Monday to Friday 8am till 6pm

Keeping you up to date

We have included a number of frequently asked questions with responses, but these may
change following the government's plans to have daily updates.

Yours faithfully

Chloe Phillips
PRINCIPAL

How much notice will we be given if the school is closed?	We may not get a great deal of notice but, we will give families as much notice as possible if and when this happens. The current advice is to stay open and that is what we are trying to do but as safely as possible.
Should I keep my child off school?	<p>The current advice is that if your child or any member of their immediate family has a high temperature and or symptoms that include cough, flu-like symptoms they should self-isolate for a period of 7 days from the onset of symptoms. We will send home any children who have these symptoms and they MUST stay away from school for the full 7 days.</p> <p>Please contact your local authority transport to confirm their action plan in such cases. It is important that you are prepared - You may need to make your own transport arrangements.</p>
What do you mean about staying at home and self-isolating and how will I know I'm ill enough to need to?	<p>The best advice can be found by following this link. It identifies symptoms and gives advice about what you should do.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection</p>
Will my child be given any homework in the event of school closure?	We will be sending a pack home with your child with information to help you during any period of unusual school closure; teachers will be liaising with you as far as it is practical and possible regarding 'homework'.
Will the dates of the examinations for example GCSE and GCE exams be changed?	We have no influence on the dates and timings of the external exams. Ofqual, the exams regulator, says it is working with exam boards and the government to make contingency plans if there is a "widespread outbreak". Until that becomes necessary, Ofqual is telling schools to assume exams will continue as scheduled and that they would issue guidance to "manage any particular risks" to the exam season if coronavirus became widespread.
What about out of school activities?	We have already taken the decision to cancel all overseas trips and community visits where there will be large gatherings or crowded places
Will this affect staff in school?	Staff are as likely as anyone else to contract this illness and so the rules for staff are the same. Any member of staff who has a high temperature and or flu-like symptoms will need to stay away from school for 7 days from the onset of symptoms.

We have plans to go on holiday during the next few weeks, is there anything we should do differently when we get back?	Keeping our school community safe is of paramount importance and we are monitoring the travel advice daily.
	The best starting point for the most up to date information and advice can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response from here you will also be able to find information about overseas travel and what to do if you need to self isolate.
All of this feels really draconian is it really necessary?	We continue to monitor very closely the advice coming out from the government departments, including Public Health England and are taking what we believe to be pragmatic, proportionate decisions. The safety of everyone in our school community is our overwhelming priority. We would ask everyone to help by complying with the spirit of what we are trying to achieve. We know that over the next few weeks and months, life as we all know it will be very much disrupted. We need to work together to lessen the impact on our students and learning.
Will there be enough staff to keep the school open?	Over the coming days and weeks, we will be monitoring the situation very carefully with regard to the number of staff in work at any time. Given that the instructions for staff are the same as for students, that is to stay away from school for 7 days if displaying symptoms, then this is an issue that will change as time goes on. We have been working on contingency plans that would mean keeping school open. This may disrupt normal timetables and lessons but will be aimed at continuing to provide a safe and positive learning environment.
What are you doing to help stop spreading this illness?	We continue to promote good hand hygiene and the Catch it, Bin it, Kill it strategy for dealing with coughing and sneezing.
Where can I get the best advice and information?	The best starting point for the most up to date information and advice can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response from here you will also be able to find information about overseas travel and what to do if you need to self isolate.
What if my child has underlying health conditions?	If you feel your child has an increased chance of susceptibility to the illness due to underlying health conditions, and / or being more at risk of severe symptoms should they contract the illness, please contact us at the school.