

Subject: COVID -19 update 16 3 2020

Date sent: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 2:49pm

## Great Barford C of E Primary Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following today's Department of Education update I am able to share the latest advice 16 03 2020:

Current advice remains in place:

No education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce would be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to education or children's social care settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

What you need to know:

staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal

if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home

clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products

supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues

### Handwashing advice

The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

Watch this short NHS film for guidance:

<https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

### Department for Education coronavirus helpline

- The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

To expand on the update I sent yesterday 15 03 2020 here is some more detail around the measures we are putting in place in our school:

- Visitors will be limited to essential professional meetings only.
- No parent helpers in school until further notice.

- The parent forum meeting due to take place on 17 03 2020 is postponed. A new date to be arranged.
- There will be no drop-in until the end of term. If you need to talk to a teacher, please call the school office.

If schools were to be closed, as part of our contingency plan, we have work planned ready to be sent via email for the children to complete at home. Children will need access to the internet in order to complete some of these pieces of work. We will ensure for those children without access to a suitable device (laptop, tablet or PC) that there will be paper and pencil pieces of work for them to access. Please can you inform us via the [admin@gbpa.org.uk](mailto:admin@gbpa.org.uk) email if your child does not have access to a suitable device.

For those children currently not in school who are being isolated but not exhibiting symptoms, please encourage your children to read and access online platforms such as Purple Mash and TimesTable Rockstars.

Login details will be written in the children's home school books or diaries and for children who are not on site tomorrow, you will receive the information via email.

The health and wellbeing of all our school community remains our number one priority and we will keep you updated on any further developments.

Kind regards,

Sarah Evans  
Headteacher