



Oaklands Nursery

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Dear Parents & Carers and Staff,

Re Coronavirus

I know you will be highly aware that the government has now produced updated guidance as the country has moved into the DELAY Phase.

We can confirm, at present, we have had no confirmed cases within the school. The safety and well-being of our whole school community is our number one priority. We are in ongoing dialogue with the relevant authorities, including, Public Health England and the Department for Education and will follow their expert advice in terms of any appropriate next steps.

Whilst school is being directed to stay open, if any pupils or staff present with either:

- a high temperature (of 37.8 degrees or above) or
- a new continuous cough

They must not come to school for 7 days

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection.

Immediate Actions that our Trust is taking to protect our community.

We are currently in an unprecedented situation, the Trust have made the decision that we want to prioritise our children being able to attend school and to learn, whilst mitigating against the possible spread of the virus. We have therefore made the following decisions to take effect from tomorrow, Tuesday 17th March 2020. These measures will continue until the end of April and will be reviewed after that date:

All of the following to be cancelled/postponed:

- Mother's Day Crafts Parent Sessions
- Governor's Meeting 18th March
- Sponsored Walk 28th March
- Easter bonnet parades, the children can still bring their Easter bonnets, but unfortunately, we can't have a parade for parents
- Children Centre groups
- Trust training and events



National Support School
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Key information

If any pupils or staff have either of these symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, **stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days** from when your symptoms started.

- This action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious.
- Plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home.
- Ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home.
- Stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible.
- Sleep alone, if that is possible.
- Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water.
- Stay away from vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly, and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible.
- You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. **If your symptoms worsen during home isolation, or are no better after 7 days, contact NHS 111 online.** If you have no internet access you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.
- Please do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.
- More information can be found at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
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Symptoms

If any pupils or staff present with either:

- **New continuous cough and/or**
- **High temperature (of 37.8 degrees or above)**

They must not come to school for 7 days.

Next Steps

You need to contact the school **on the first day of absence** and inform the school. During this period you must put measures into place to keep your child isolated as much as possible.

To find more practical advice on this, please read the full guidance:

<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>

If a parent/carer experiences these symptoms, please make arrangements for another person to bring/collect your child.

If a pupil presents with symptoms at school

It is essential that you have plans in place for a very **prompt collection** of your child in school should we phone you to say they have become unwell and are showing these symptoms. Additionally, you will need to have plans in place for childcare arrangements should the 7 day isolation period become necessary.



Hand washing

We are reminding children daily to wash their hands. Please, emphasize the importance of regular hand washing, following the guidance of: for 20 seconds, or two happy birthdays, in soapy water. Whilst we are using some hand sanitizers the advice we are told is that soap is more effective if hands are washed carefully.

We ask pupils to either wash their hands as often as possible in the basins in the toilets i.e. at break and lunchtime as well as on arrival at school.

Staffing pressures

Whilst the school will make every effort to put measures into place to cope with staff shortages, we must remember that as a relatively small school, the impact of just one teacher being absent is substantial. We will make every effort to try and cover using internal staff and, where possible, agency staff. Understandably, this may cause some impact on the day to day learning of children. However, partial closure, or even a full school closure, may unfortunately be necessary in these circumstances. I would like to stress that, where possible, we will continue with business as usual.

Contingency planning

The UK Government has not instructed schools to close.

Communication with Parents/Carers will continue throughout the closure period using our text messaging service and website.

Department for Education helpline for staff, parents and young people.

Phone: 0800 046 8687 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Further Information and Avoiding Anxiety

The Government and the NHS have made lots of advice about Coronavirus (also called Covid-19) available on their websites. I recommend that you look to those sources of information for updates and news about the virus and avoid listening to rumour and second hand information from other sources.

Clearly this is a developing situation and, at the time of writing, the risk to health and the smooth running of the school is deemed low to moderate. You know your own child best, but together we should:

- Do our best not to sensationalize or over dramatize the issue.
- Steer pupils away from some of the news coverage and social media channels.
- Stick to known facts rather than speculation.
- Do our best to avoid passing on our own concerns to our children/pupils.



There are a small number of more vulnerable pupils. They and their families will know best how to stay safe but we will support these groups as best as we can, taking into account advice from the NHS 111 service and government websites.

We all have our own levels for tolerating stress, anxiety and disruption and will react to situations like this in our own way. I am sure that you can understand that it is impossible for the school to keep all parents/carers happy with any decision regarding school closure or other significant interventions. Unfortunately, our resources may be stretched for some time; we politely request that, should you have any concerns, that you contact the school directly using office@oaklands.staffs.sch.uk

All decisions about school closure will be enacted as per Government advice. As the situation develops please support us as we seek to manage the situation, and risk, as best we can.

Please be assured that our staff will be doing their very best to protect you, your children and their education.

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging circumstances.

Sara Bailey

Headteacher

