

17th March 2020

Dear Families,

Coronavirus Update

Following our letter of 10th March, we are continuing to review the guidance issued by the DFE on a daily basis. In the light of the complex needs of our pupils, we are continually considering precautionary measures that will help to reduce risk of the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). With immediate effect, we have stopped all non-essential visitors from coming onto school premises.

We are also aware of the potential heightened anxieties of our pupils, families and staff and have therefore postponed all educational visits; offsite activities; shows and family events, until the situation is more settled.

We also felt it was appropriate to advise you that we are aware of two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in people connected to the Riverside Community but would like to re-assure you that neither have been on Riverside School premises.

We continue to follow current guidance that schools should remain open however, are putting preparations in place for any changes to this situation. We have added additional resources to our website for you to share with your child should they stay at home. Please do visit www.riversideschool.org.uk and access the **Coronavirus - Home Resources** section in our **Information for Families/Resources For Families** area.

If your child is not able to attend school and you would like to borrow suitable resources for home use, please contact your class teacher to discuss arrangements.

In line with current Government guidance, if you or a member of your household are unwell with a new continuous cough or high temperature, the whole household should remain home in isolation for 14 days. **Please do not send your child into school.** We will contact you every other day to see how you and your child are. Our staff team are following the same guidance.

I should like to remind you that the Department for Education coronavirus helpline is now 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, Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk. Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

You can also find further advice at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

Please be re-assured that we continue to review advice daily and, should there be any changes to recommended actions, we will issue an update.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Solomons
Headteacher