

13 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The government announced yesterday that the UK has moved from the *containment* phase to the *delay* phase. This means that if anyone has symptoms of the coronavirus such as a new cough or a high temperature of 37.8C (100F) or more that they should self-isolate. Please inform school immediately if you, your child or anyone in your family is required to self-isolate. The advice from Public Health England (PHE) for those who need to self-isolate is as follows:

- Not to go to work, school, or public areas, use public transport or taxis - or even for a walk
- Those with even mild symptoms of infection should stay at least two metres away from other people in their homes, and should sleep alone
- Those with confirmed or suspected cases should use a separate bathroom if they can, or thoroughly clean facilities after using them if they live with other people
- Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
- You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

As advised previously, there are simple steps you can follow to prevent the virus from spreading:

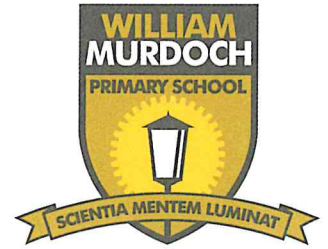
- Wash your hands often with anti-bacterial handwash for at least 20 seconds (this is equivalent to singing the Happy Birthday song twice) or use a hand sanitiser if washing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport, using the toilet and before eating.
- Catching your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throwing the tissue in the bin.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched items and surfaces.
- Avoid shaking hands and touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

The school continues to take all necessary precautions to help delay the onset of the virus in the school community. We have already taken a number of precautionary measures, including stringent procedures for hand washing and additional cleaning of communal areas and common touch zones and are firming these up by also doing the following:

- Reducing the number of assemblies (a decision on Mother's Day assembly scheduled for Friday 20 March 2020 will be made later next week and we will keep you informed)
- Reducing the number of staff meetings
- Placing restrictions on visitors to the site
- Reviewing our risk assessments for school trips (these will continue unless we are advised otherwise by PHE)
- Introducing extra midday cleaning

To support the efforts of the school in delaying the onset of the virus we ask that **parents help us** by:

- Only visiting the school office if necessary. In the first instance, please telephone or email enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk
- Dropping off Nursery/Reception children at the door to the unit and not going inside
- Ensuring adults and children wash hands before leaving home
- Limit the amount of time on site by dropping off/collecting children and leaving immediately



At this moment in time the government has decided not to enforce a blanket closure of schools across the country. We have however set in motion preparations should the government decide to close schools in the future or the local situation changes and a school closure has to be made. The government advice is being frequently updated and school will share these updates as and when appropriate. Further details on the information provided in this letter is available using the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Singh', written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher