



17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus COVID-19 Update

I am sure you will have all seen the news yesterday regarding the Government's latest response to Coronavirus. The Government has stated that:

“Everyone should stop all non-essential contact with others and stop all unnecessary travel.”

However, there continues to be no plans at present to close all schools in the UK.

The Government have also announced that anyone with serious health conditions should be “shielded from social contact for around 12 weeks.”

What to do if your child or a family member has symptoms of Coronavirus

If anyone in your household has symptoms of coronavirus, no matter how mild, everyone who is living in the home must self-isolate for 14 days (not 7 days as the Government stated last week).

- **Do not bring your child to school.**
- **You must keep your child at home for 14 days.**
- **Everyone in your family should self-isolate for 14 days.**
- **Contact the school if your child or a family member has symptoms to let us know your child will not be in school.**
- **Notify the school if your child or anyone in your family is being given a Coronavirus test by the NHS.**
- **Do not send your child back to school if they or anyone in your family continues to be ill even after the 14 days at home.**

Symptoms to be aware of:

- A temperature of 37.8 degrees or higher
- A new or persistent cough

Anyone with symptoms of Coronavirus should follow the Government advice on self-isolating.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>





How the latest Government announcement will affect us at Geoffrey Field

We already have staff who are not able to come into school as members of their family have a high temperature or a cough. These staff will need to be away from school for a minimum of 14 days. It is likely that the number of staff needing to self-isolate will increase over the coming weeks as the virus spreads. We are also expecting that more pupils will be off school because they are self-isolating because they or a family member has a cough or a high temperature.

In addition, we will be following the Government advice and staff who have serious underlying health conditions will not be in school from Monday for 12 weeks.

This may mean that:

- Your child may be taught by different teachers to their usual class teachers
- We may teach some classes together
- We may mix up the age range of classes, if the number of children becomes very low
- Children may sometimes do different work to the curriculum that was planned

If staff numbers become too low, we will contact Reading Borough Council to discuss how we should proceed.

RYG Cancelled

As we have now been told to avoid all non-essential travel, we have made the decision to cancel the Easter Holiday trip to RYG that many Y5 and Y6 pupils were signed up for. Whilst we recognise that this will be disappointing for the children, we must put the health and safety of the children and staff first.

If you had booked for RYG, the school will be in contact later this week to explain how your money will be refunded.

I am sure you will agree that these are very uncertain times at the moment and things may change on a day by day basis. I will continue to update you on any developments or new information for schools from Public Health England or the Government when we receive them. Please ensure you check your texts and emails daily in case we have contacted parents.

Your sincerely,

Shelly Hancock

Headteacher





Your sincerely,

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