

Junior School

Infant School

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High Down Schools

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Executive Headteacher

Mrs A Cowan

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re Coronavirus situation

Thank you very much for your continued support and measured approach during this testing time. I know that an increasing number of families are self-isolating and we are supportive and grateful to all those who feel that this has been the appropriate thing to do whether because of symptoms or vulnerability in the family.

Thank you also for keeping us informed by phone and email. This allows us to ensure we are safeguarding children and reduces unnecessary workload by chasing child absence, allowing us to focus our time and effort on the children we have in school.

As you know we receive daily updates from Public Health England/DFE and the leadership team in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership. This allows us to keep you informed and adjust any measures we take in school accordingly.

At this moment in time there are no plans to shut schools in England and so it is our intention to stay open while it is safe to do so. If staffing levels drop to an extent where safeguarding and supervision becomes a concern we will:

- Consider consolidating classes adjusting timetabling and activities accordingly. This may mean that your child has a different programme of work and has to work with different people.
- Close individual year groups where the above measure does not allow for adequate safeguarding.

Only when we have exhausted all other measures will we close the school while advice from Public Health England is that schools should remain open. We understand that many of you will be severely impacted if we close before it is absolutely necessary, including those in the front line for treating the epidemic. We will do all that we can to keep provision open for as long as possible.

In the event of a year group or school closure, we will make this decision as early as possible and communicate this news via email and on the home page of the website. As noted in yesterday's letter, although we are not currently closing we are planning for the event of a full or partial school closure should it be a necessity.

Thank you for your continued support,

Andrey Cowan

Executive Headteacher

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