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Headteacher: Mr D. Feasey - BA Hons, PGCE

17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

I spoke to many of you at the school gate this morning and I fully understand your concerns and worries about your children and the Coronavirus. As a school we are following the advice given to us by the Government. This is the standard letter we have received from the London Borough of Merton.

“As you may well have seen, on 16 March 2020 the Government announced further steps in its plan to tackle the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 and updated their advice for this ‘Delay Phase’.

The new features of this phase are:

- *People with a new and persistent cough and / or a high temperature should self-isolate for 14 days, along with all members of their family/household. **Note:** This is a change from earlier advice.*
- *People without symptoms of the virus are nevertheless asked to practice ‘social distancing’ through a range of means, such as working from home if possible, avoiding non-essential travel, not going to pubs, clubs, theatres and other social venues. This applies especially to people who are over 70, or are pregnant or have some health conditions.*
- *People with queries should search NHS online and should not call 111.*

Previously announced measures are:

- *School trips abroad are banned with effect from Friday 13 March.*
- *Only people admitted to hospital will be tested for the virus.*
- *Older people with pre-existing conditions should not go on cruises.*

You will find the government advice in full at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

It is summarised in this table

Group/ Action	Wash hands more often	Household isolation for 14 days*	Self - isolation for 7 days**	Social mixing in the community***	Having friends and family to the house	Use remote access to NHS and essential services	Vary daily commute and use less public transport	Home working
0 – 69	Yes	Yes	Yes	Advised against	Advised against	Advised	Advised	Advised
70+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Any age Member of vulnerable group with an underlying health condition ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Pregnant women	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Those with serious underlying health conditions	As above, but further bespoke guidance will be provided by your GP next week							

**if one member of your family or household has a new continuous cough or high temperature*

*** If you live alone and you have a new continuous cough or high temperature*

**** If you live alone and you have a new continuous cough or high temperature*

***** For example via telephone or internet*

1 i.e. anyone instructed to get flu jab each year

In line with that advice, please ensure that your child stays at home for 14 days if they show any signs of a persistent cough or a high temperature; all other family / household members should also stay at home if one family member shows the symptoms.

As testing will now only be done upon hospital admission, we are unable to confirm numbers of cases. This is because not everybody who gets symptoms of the virus and self-isolates will go on to be tested.

We will be able to update you on any confirmed cases we are informed of (see below).

Precautions

To reiterate, the amended advice is now:

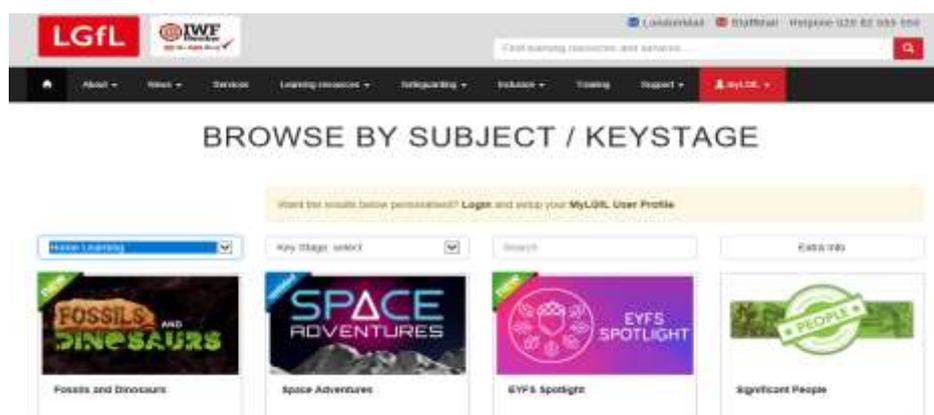
- Self-isolate immediately for 14 days with your family / household members if you show the symptoms outlined above.*
- Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds (we are including this in daily advice to pupils at school)*
- Avoid touching your face and hands where possible;*
- Catch sneezes and coughs in a tissue, and then discard it immediately;*

Current school position

Whilst the Government's advice is to keep Schools open, if a school leader, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, feels it is not safe to keep the school open due to staff shortages, they may need to implement a partial or full closure. At the present time the School remains fully open and we have prepared resources that you are able to use in the event of a full or partial closure of the school.

Here is the link to the LGFL resources, all their passwords and log in details have been provided in their Reading record book. Once you access the link log in with your child's details under myLGFL and access home learning via the subject drop down menu. Please see screenshot below.

<https://www.lgfl.net/learning-resources/grid>



At present, the school has no confirmed cases among teaching staff. All the necessary precautions are being taken.

Several members of staff are self-isolating and today we had 100 pupils absent with symptoms associated with Coronavirus.

School trips

The school has a planned trip to Kew Gardens for Year 2 on 20th March 2020. At the moment this will still take place, but I will review the situation daily.

For further health advice, visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Yours Sincerely,



Mr D Feasey
Head Teacher