



Coronavirus update and planning for potential school closure

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, yesterday, the Government announced that we are moving from the Contain phase of the coronavirus action plan and into the Delay phase, in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Full details of each stage in the government action plan can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A **new**, continuous cough

You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

Since our last update, at Rackham we have taken further measures to help delay the virus. These include:

- All pupils to wash hands upon entry to school and several times throughout the day
- Children asked not to share resources
- No food preparation outside of our school kitchen
- Water bottles no longer stored in a communal box
- Staggered break and lunchtimes for pupils to reduce pupil capacity on playgrounds and in the dinner hall
- Collective worship (assemblies) to be held in individual classes with the class teacher.

- All non-essential school visitors have been postponed
- Sporting fixtures postponed
- FWR Bingo and Easter disco cancelled/postponed
- Terracycle and tuckshop fundraisers postponed
- Carpet time limited to a minimum
- Door handles and high contact points cleaned regularly throughout each day

In addition to this, we would like to remind parents that all pupils need to bring a named water bottle to school. This is particularly important now as we have closed our communal water fountains until further notice.

In preparation for a potential school closure in the future, we have been working hard to ensure all parents have email access for essential updates. We have also ensured today that all parents have granted permissions for use of our SeeSaw learning platform so that learning can be accessed from home. Information about this will be sent out early next week.

Please ensure you contact the school office if you believe your child has an underlying health need which we are not already aware of. Similarly, please contact the school office if you or a family member have travelled abroad in the last 14 days or plan to travel in the near future.

