

16th March, 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID - 19 – EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at Bridge we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and the Local Authority.

What's the current situation?

- **The school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions continue to run as normal providing staffing levels remain sufficient
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by calling the school absence line, leaving a message or making contact via school website – www.bridge.staffs.sch.uk
- Current guidance from Ofqual states that Exams are still scheduled to run on the same dates.
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- Contact will be made immediately to parents if their child is showing any of the outlined symptoms.
- Undertaking a deep clean of the school premises.
- Reminding students of good hygiene practice i.e. hand washing, using a tissue for a cough and to avoid face touching.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email, telephone message or through contact page on school website – www.bridge.staffs.sch.uk
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](http://www.bbc.com/news/health-51181111) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](http://www.youngminds.org.uk) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).

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- Please let us know whether or not your child has access to a computer from home, so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point.

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we'll:

- Alert parents to closure, via phone calls home, text messages, a post on our website and Staffordshire County Council's school closure list.
- Similar contact will be made when the school will be reopened
- Provide printable Maths and English work for KS3 and KS, available on school website – www.bridge.staffs.sch.uk or in packs for students to take home.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare.

There are currently no plans to close.

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- Telephone the School office, 01543 255872 if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](http://www.nhs.uk), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](http://www.nhs.uk) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](http://www.gov.uk), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr James Morris,
Head of School

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