

Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I was hoping to update you earlier this week with the latest information concerning Coronavirus (Covid-19) as the government had confirmed this was in the 'Contain' phase. However, yesterday, the World Health Organisation declared this as pandemic with parliament having an emergency Cobra lunchtime meeting today. As we are still awaiting the results and news in the press predicts the government may be moving to the 'Delay' phase, I am sending this update now but please be aware that circumstances may change, dependant upon a decision by the government and we will be led by this and Public Health England - more details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan/coronavirus-action-plan-a-guide-to-what-you-can-expect-across-the-uk>

Our first priority is always the health and welfare of our children, so I would also like to keep you informed of what we are already doing.

Raising Awareness

Every Monday we have a very brief update on the current situation in the world in our assembly, with the emphasis being on what we can do individually as a school. The advice is still to ensure the very best hygiene by washing our hands more frequently and also for the correct amount of time, using soap and water. The children have been asked to imagine that they are singing happy birthday twice through, in order to wash for the correct amount of time.

Posters that are child-friendly have been displayed throughout the school with reminders about hand-washing (also included in every toilet); whilst staff areas display the government Coronavirus A4 poster (which is also displayed in every adult washing facility).

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869250/Coronavirus_advice_for_educational_settings_poster.pdf

General Cleaning

Our cleaning company, Churchill, are ensuring that there is extra provision with the daily wiping of door handles, taps and everywhere that is frequently used, using sanitizing wipes. Similarly, our caterers Cucina are cleaning the tables thoroughly using a sanitizing spray, whilst the dining chairs are also wiped daily. We continue to ensure all pupils use the hand sanitizer before eating at lunchtimes. We will also now be taking a hand sanitizer with us when pupils go offsite.

Contingency Planning

At this point in time we do not anticipate closing the school as there are no concerns in school from staff or families visiting any of the countries already named, or being in contact with anyone with the Coronavirus. We know it can be very unsettling for families when there are reports of schools closing in other countries but this is a decision that will only be taken if the government deem this necessary or we are told to do so by Public Health England; we will, of course, keep you informed of any changes and are frequently updated by the government and Wokingham Local Authority on the current situation.

Events that we have planned as a school are going ahead, unless we hear otherwise; at which time you will also be informed. As we approach the Easter holidays, we would strongly advise anyone who is planning to travel abroad, to check with the travel company beforehand for the latest information, as well as looking online for information regarding that country.

School Closure

In the event of a school closure, staff would be working from home and we would expect our pupils to also continue to work at home. There will be further information on OWL daily which would include the day-to-day work for spellings, reading, times tables, Maths Whizz and further work on the Homework grid. In addition, staff will post additional work which may involve research/reading or collating information on topics for work that is in progress or planned, so please do check on a daily basis at 9am to support your child's learning in this way so that, if we did need to close, learning, achievement and progress would still continue. This may never be needed but we thought it would be good to share this with you now to show we have thought, as a staff, about the worst case scenario.

We hope that you appreciate that we cannot predict what may happen but we are definitely well-prepared to ensure that our children's education continues and we will certainly keep you informed of any changes.

Finally, please ensure you keep healthy and that any vulnerable or older members of your family/community are looked after and encouraged to keep healthy too. Above all, please follow the advice we have all been given, to wash hands frequently and thoroughly throughout the day and avoid touching your face.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. H. West
Headteacher