

# Whitstable Junior School

Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DB

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Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Coronavirus Update

I have had it clarified from the Local Authority that in the case of households, **every member of the household must isolate for a full 14 days.**

### **New guidance received today (17.3.2020) from the DfE for households with symptoms**

Yesterday, the Government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started
- if you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

The symptoms are:

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

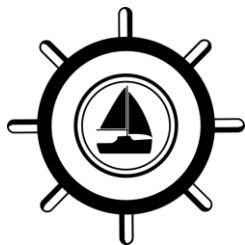
The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

### **Vulnerable Groups**

If your child, you, or someone you live with at home, falls into the vulnerable groups the government describes as being more at risk should they catch the virus then please be





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assured that school will understand if you feel, the correct decision is to not send your child to school. Please do what you think is right for your family.

School continues to be open in as normal a capacity as possible and we are putting the children who can attend school at the heart of every decision we make. However we are having to make decisions about covering classes in different ways due to staff shortages. We currently have 8 members of staff, teaching, support and premises, who are self-isolating. None of the members of staff have been in contact with confirmed COVID-19 cases. Please be assured the children's safety comes first in any decision we have to make.

For those children who do have to stay at home, we have created a new tab called Home Learning Resources on the school web site under the Parent Information heading. We have added links to recommended websites and also given some suggestions of things the children could do. These are to carry on using TTRockstars, Spelling Shed and do lots of reading. If they wish they could research and produce a project on the topic they are currently learning about, or an area they love. We will continue to add anything we think you might find useful here so keep an eye on the page.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this lengthy letter but I do want to keep you as fully informed as possible. I also hope that that we can continue to keep the most vulnerable amongst our school communities safe and well.

Kind regards,

*AMKnoupe*

Annie Knoupe  
Headteacher

