



Rathfern Primary School
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Coronavirus/ COVID-19 Update: 18th March

Following the Prime Ministers announcements we are continuing to update our information to parents. We will continue to inform parents via ParentMail and on the school website, but that notice may be shorter than in usual circumstances.

The current government advice is that 'No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England'. However, if necessary and due to local conditions, head teachers may have to make arrangements for partial opening or total closure outside of the PHE advice.

As a result of the latest government's guidance on self-isolation and their guidance on social distancing, we find ourselves unable to fully staff the school.

The school remains open but the following arrangements are in place:

- **The Nursery will be closed until further notice**

If the situation arises where children cannot attend school, we will notify you immediately. This will only happen if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school safely.

We are sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are no immediate plans to close, but the situation is changing very quickly.

I am asking any parents who work in the **NHS; care services for the elderly and vulnerable; the emergency and other essential services and local authority services** to let us know if this arrangement causes childcare issues, so that we can consider how we might continue to offer as much time as possible to your children. Please do let us know.

Increased precautions:

We understand our duties of social responsibility and we are taking every precaution to ensure we are able to provide safe, continuing education. We have intensified our cleaning routines and remind the school community about the importance of good hygiene routinely. Our contingency planning suggests we consider the possibility of closing schools for certain year groups or demographics in line with advice we receive.

I appreciate this will cause significant disruption but at this moment in time and with the information I have from staff and parents this is the best way we can operate safely for our pupils and staff. I will keep you updated about arrangements going forward, but please check our website regularly.

We have shared government advice about all eventualities and shared advice about identifying illness in school. If a child falls in in school we know what precautions to take and we will inform you so that you can arrange for your child to be collected or sent home

Meetings, Trips and Visits

We have increased our use of email and conference call meetings to reduce face to face meetings. We are cancelling all trips and visits in line with advice to increased social distancing and many organisations have contacted us to let us know the actions they are taking. We will continue to monitor the advice in relation to the after school provision in primary phases.



Learning packs

In anticipation of a school closure we will be sending home learning packs on Friday. The learning packs will contain five days learning at a time.

Please protect your child and others by picking up your child and leaving the premises promptly.

Please be assured that the safety of pupils, staff and the school community remain our priority and we are happy to be of assistance where we can.

We ask that parents follow the current and latest advice being given by the government agencies. Please see the attached guidance.

Coronavirus advice- 17th March 2020

(please check links below for any changes to this advice)

Anyone who develops the following symptoms must stay at home for 14 days (seven days if they live alone):-

- a high temperature
and/or
- a new continuous cough

Everyone who lives in the same household as someone with symptoms must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

Do not go (or take your child) to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

For most people, Coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection but if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

Stay at home guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Advice for vulnerable people:

<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>

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**.
- 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)
- If your child is unwell or is self-isolating, report this as soon as possible, you would do normally.
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety



If anyone becomes ill during the school day they will need to go home and will be asked to remain at home for 14 days. Any siblings in school will also be asked to go home and self-isolate for 14 days. You will need to let the schools of any other siblings know so that they can do the same.

