

17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, we would like to thank all those families and parents that are following new government guidelines issued late on Monday 16 March to self-isolate all household members for 14 days if anyone is showing symptoms of Coronavirus COVID-19. Like all schools, we have a large number of families taking this step. We do not have any confirmed cases of Coronavirus at Chawson. It is precautionary measures like this that will protect our wider school community and we are grateful for the steps individuals are taking. Please rest assured that we will be authorising all absences.

We will endeavour to remain open for as long as the Government directs us that this is the best course of action. We will stay open for as long it is safe to do so. This is dependent on us having safe staffing levels which we are reviewing frequently. Should we have to close ahead of any government directive we will not take this decision lightly, and will take all possible steps to keep the school open. Possible interim measures could involve closing the school for certain year groups while others remain open. We will keep you fully up-to-date at every stage.

We would like to reassure parents that we are monitoring all official guidance each day. Further to this we are evaluating all of our practices and taking robust measures to protect our children and staff. Just some of the steps that have been taken so far include:

- Full hygiene measures, including regular hand washing, frequent use of alcohol gel and daily disinfections for high use areas and items.
- We have closed our school to all outside visitors and volunteers and our staff are not attending any external events or training.
- We have significantly limited the amount of cross class contact that children are having. We have done this by changing eating arrangements at lunchtimes, cancelling assemblies and teaching maths in class groups rather than in maths sets.

We are preparing for the possibility that national school closures may be announced in the coming days or weeks. At Chawson, we will support home learning through our website where parents will be signposted to suitable online resources. Teachers are working hard to prepare this in advance and details of this will be published on our website on the first day of an official closure. If you are currently self-isolating we ask that you concentrate on core skills such as spelling, hand-writing and times tables.

Thank you again for your support. We wish all those in self-isolation and those that are supporting vulnerable family members all the very best. Please do not hesitate to contact us to seek further clarification or support on any matter.

Yours sincerely

Helen Wallace   Nicola Peck

Headteachers