

# HOWBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

Howbridge Road Witham Essex CM8 1BZ

Telephone 01376 501648

E-mail [office@howbridge-jun.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@howbridge-jun.essex.sch.uk)

Website [www.howbridgejunior.co.uk](http://www.howbridgejunior.co.uk)

Headteacher Mrs L Dale B.Ed (Hons)



17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020

As you will be aware, the Government made some significant announcements on the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We are updating you as to what these announcements mean for our school today.

The advice around self-isolation has changed, for clarity, the new advice is as follows:

- If any member of a family shows symptoms (new continuous cough, temperature, shortness of breath) the advice is that the whole household should self-isolate for 14 days. This is to help protect others in the community.
- Women who are pregnant have been advised to avoid social contact where possible
- An announcement about self-isolation for particular groups of people is expected later this week; these groups include: those who are pregnant, have serious underlying health conditions and are aged over 70.

For any pupil who is currently self-isolating, the period of time has been extended to 14 days. It is important that the whole family self isolates as per the guidance above. This means that siblings that are currently in school, of those who are self-isolating, will also need to self-isolate.

Schools have been advised to stay open and, for now, we have enough staff to remain open. Although certain activities, such as clubs may have to be cancelled at short notice.

We are taking the following additional steps to help our families and staff:

- From this morning, we are allowing the children to come into school from 8.35 am onwards in order to minimise the number of people on the patio before school. This will continue until further notice.
- At the end of the school day, we are politely asking that you leave the patio as quickly as possible after collecting your child and not linger to chat!
- We are working hard to arrange for pupils to access work/learning via Google Classroom should we be asked to close in the near future.

Please continue to be patient and understanding of the office and teaching staff, as they are doing their best in a very difficult situation and doing a great job of continuing to educate your children despite the circumstances.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and advise you if anything changes.

Your sincerely,

Mrs L Dale

