



# PEEL COMMON *Community Junior School*

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**Headteacher** : Mr Andy Clarke  
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**Administrative Officer** : Mrs Tracy Barker

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you all for your patience at this difficult and ever-changing time.

I am writing with a further update to the information that I sent yesterday prior to the government's most recent advice which was later communicated at 5.00pm by the Prime Minister in his daily briefing.

Our current position is that if your child or anyone in the family exhibits symptoms of the coronavirus (new, persistent cough, fever (above 37.8 degrees) and/or shortness of breath, then the whole family are to self-isolate as per the guidance sent out yesterday. This period of self-isolation has now been extended to 14 days. If you are already self-isolating, then your time period should also be extended to encompass the 14 days.

If your child or any of your family members are vulnerable with pre-existing health conditions, especially around the respiratory system or low-immunity, then we would support you if you wanted to take your child out of school as a pre-cautionary measure. This will be coded as an authorised absence, even if all the family are currently presenting as well. This would not be characterised as a condition of self-isolation, although you may wish to take on any or all of those measures advised. If at any time you wished to return your child to school, then so long as they and the family members are all well, then this can happen.

As a pre-cautionary measure at school, we are cancelling all after-school clubs for the foreseeable future and preventing all non-essential visitors from being in school. Examples of this will be that we are cancelling today's Book Fair and that we will no longer be inviting families in for PRIDE assemblies. We have also asked that our volunteer reading mums do not attend during this period.

We are currently planning for the potential eventuality of when schools are asked to close en-masse or if through reasons of health and safety the school has to partially or fully close. As part of this, we are working on how we can prepare work for your 'well' child to continue their education whilst at home. This will be largely achieved through access to the internet. If access to the internet is problematic for you then can you let the school office know so that we can prepare an alternative for your child should we reach that point.



We are trying our best to respond to and interpret accurately the advice given to us by central government, all the while prioritising your children's safety and well-being. We are still encouraging all our children to be extra hygienic; to wash and/or sanitise their hands regularly and to catch those coughs and sneezes in a tissue and then to dispose of immediately. We are still being extra-vigilant around the school's cleaning regime with those enhanced measures I have previously spoken about. But I am also concerned that we communicate to children that whilst we are taking extra, sensible pre-cautions, everything is as normal as possible, following the same routines and having those same, positive relationships to reduce any anxiety that the children may be experiencing. Where class teachers have picked up on any specific concerns we are encouraging them to address these in a 'circle time' session where the children can share concerns, questions and anxieties and hopefully that member of staff can help allay or keep proportionate any concerns or fears.

Currently, there are 18 families that are self-isolating because one or more of the family members are showing symptoms of the coronavirus.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-51643556> Please read this useful article from the BBC as to whether schools will close.

If you have any concerns or questions then please contact the school office through our email or by phone and I or the team will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mr Andy Clarke  
Headteacher