



16 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and local authority.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** - this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions for children continue to run as normal, including breakfast and after-school clubs
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell - if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by calling the student absence line
- SATs are still scheduled to run on the same dates. As part of our contingency planning we have considered the situation when the number of staff reporting as unavailable for work becomes so high that the safe operation of the school is not viable. Should this occur we may instigate a partial closure prioritising years 2 and 6.
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- If a pupil feels ill during the school we will contact parents to come and collect them as soon as possible. Please ensure we have your up to date contact numbers
- Enforcing hand-washing and providing hand sanitisers
- Assemblies have taken place to remind students about the importance of good hygiene and information posters are displayed around the sites

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email to office@bluecoatmeresprimary.co.uk or by telephone 01476 563953 (lower site), 01476 562091 (upper site)
- 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
- 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)
- In the event of a school closure, work for pupils will be accessible via our website: www.bluecoatmeresprimary.co.uk/homework/. Please check that your child has access to the website from home, and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point)

What happens if the school has to close?

- We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.
- In either case, we'll:
 - alert parents to closure and school re-opening via ParentHub and the academy website

- Work for pupils will be set and will be accessible on the academy's website: www.bluecoatmeresprimary.co.uk/homework/
- Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Hunt
Interim Headteacher