

Orchard Manor School
John Nash Drive
Dawlish
Devon EX7 9SF



13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus

Following the government's announcement that we have moved to the delay phase of the government's action plan, we would like to update you on how this affects us as a school.

At this time, schools, including Orchard Manor School, remain open. Pupils are expected in school unless they are displaying the following symptoms:

- A high temperature and/or
- A new, continuous cough

If pupils are displaying these symptoms, they must self-isolate for 7 days, following the guidelines from the government. If you are self-isolating your child, please inform the school as you would for any other absence. Please be aware that if pupils are displaying these symptoms at school, they will be sent home. If you have any concerns, please go to the NHS website or phone 111.

We have put extra precautions in place around the school to make sure we are being as hygienic as possible. Posters have been put up around school to remind staff and pupils to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'. Pupils are also being encouraged by staff to wash their hands thoroughly, particularly before lunch. Antibacterial wipes and tissues are being shared around school and staff have been asked to regularly wipe down any communal areas and items.

In the event that the school has to close, please be assured that work will be provided for pupils to complete at home, particularly for pupils who have upcoming exams.

We are receiving daily advice and guidance, and will continue to monitor the situation closely. We will continue to update you with any further advice and guidance that we receive.

Please see below some further guidance and useful web links which will provide further information.

[Excerpt from a communication from Phil Norrey, Chief Executive Devon County Council:](#)

Since my message last week, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has yesterday (11.3.20) declared Coronavirus a Pandemic. This is the definition that the WHO gives to a new disease for which people do not have an immunity, that spreads across the world beyond what would be considered normal levels.

There has been a significant but still relatively slow rise in the number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the UK, with a small number confirmed in Devon and in our neighbouring local authority areas. Most cases so far in Devon are the result of people having returned from affected countries with the virus, and there is still relatively low transmission within UK communities. Public Health England is still working to contain these cases through self-isolation and tracing contacts of people who have been infected.

You will probably already know that this phase is likely to change as the infection spreads within the UK, and we need to prepare for this, both organisationally and for ourselves as individuals and our immediate families, friends and communities.

For now, advice from Public Health England is very clear: We need to keep things running as normally as possible. This includes keeping children in school, keeping them educated and on track for their preparation for exams, and ensure that parents, families and carers can continue to work and carry out their normal activities, to keep our economy going and protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

I recognise that this is uncharted territory for us all, and I cannot emphasise enough that I acknowledge the difficulty many of you will be experiencing in coming to terms with this situation, the anxiety you may be feeling for yourselves and your loved ones, and your concerns about balancing work and your caring and other responsibilities. I want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to ensure we have the latest information, are planning and prepared for what may be ahead of us, and are monitoring and adapting our guidelines and advice to staff and managers to respond to emerging issues and changes.

I am very grateful to everyone who is involved in this situation either directly or through carrying out their work under increased pressure.

DfE Helpline:

The DfE have launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Useful web links:

Government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The current Ofqual statement on potential impact on summer exams:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-statement-on-coronavirus>

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rose', written in a cursive style.

Mark Rose
Executive Principal