



The Griffin  
Teaching School  
Alliance



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Headteacher: Mr. Alasdair Black

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you on the current coronavirus situation and how it affects us at school.

Currently we have had no confirmed cases of coronavirus for either staff or pupils. We have some staff who are off sick (not with coronavirus) and some who are self isolating as someone in their family has a persistent cough or a high temperature. Similarly, we have some pupils off as there is a family member with symptoms or if they are in a vulnerable group, particularly those with underlying health conditions. If we have any confirmed cases I will notify you immediately.

The most recent advice is as follows:

Boris Johnson said people should work from home where possible as part of a range of stringent new measures.

Pregnant women, people over the age of 70 and those with certain health conditions should consider the advice "particularly important", he said.

People in at-risk groups will be asked within days to stay home for 12 weeks.

More than 1,500 people have tested positive for the virus in the UK - but the actual number of cases is estimated to be between 35,000 and 50,000.

The [key new government measures](#) are:

- Everyone should avoid gatherings and crowded places, such as pubs, clubs and theatres
- Everyone should work from home if they can
- All "unnecessary" visits to friends and relatives in care homes should cease
- People should only use the NHS "where we really need to" - and can reduce the burden on workers by getting advice on [the NHS website](#) where possible
- By next weekend, those with the most serious health conditions must be "largely shielded from social contact for around 12 weeks"
- The UK is now "three weeks" behind Italy - the worst-hit country in Europe
  
- If one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days
  
- Those people should, if possible, avoid leaving the house "even to buy food or essentials" - but they may leave the house "for exercise and, in that case, at a safe distance from others"

- Schools will not be closed for the moment

Chief medical adviser Prof Chris Whitty said the group of people who should take "particular care to minimise their social contact" were:

- People over the age of 70
- Other adults who would normally be advised to have the flu vaccine (such as those with chronic diseases)
- Pregnant women

Mr Johnson said "drastic action" was needed as the UK approaches "the fast growth part of the upward curve" in the number of cases.

This guidance may change by tomorrow

Yours sincerely,

Alasdair Black