

Bedford Road Primary School

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Dear parents/carers,

COVID-19

As you are 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 at Bedford Road Primary we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Bedford Borough Council.

You can see the latest guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given.
- All core school functions continue to run as normal.
- 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 telephoning the school office.

- **Trips and Visits:** At this time, we have not received any guidance that school visits in the UK should not go ahead. If you have already given permission for your children to attend an upcoming visit or sport competition and would now rather your child does not attend, please let us know as soon as possible. We will review this on a daily, trip by trip basis.
- We will also keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

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

- If your child feels ill whilst at school, we will contact you to come and take them home.
- As said before we are asking you not to bring your child to school for 7 days if your child has any of the symptoms.
- The site team are working very hard to keep the site clean.
- Enforcing hand-washing or providing hand sanitisers (we are happy for children to bring their own if you are able to get hold of them).
- Lessons or assemblies for pupils about hygiene and how to deal with anxiety.
- We will be asking all adults to stay out of the school building **as much as possible**. I am requesting that all parents drop off at the classroom door as normal. After drop off, please leave the school site promptly. We are seeking to avoid the school community coming together in large numbers and at peak times. Also from tomorrow, all non urgent meetings which involve members of the community entering the school building will be postponed.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via telephone.
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround#more-stories-2) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround#more-stories-2> has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/) <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/> 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).
- Please ensure that you are signed up to the Remind App. Please also let your child's teacher know if your child will be unable to access remote teaching (via the internet) in the event of a closure. In this way 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:

- Send a text to communicate with all parents / carers on our first and second contact list
- We will also notify you of reopening by text.
- We may use additional methods of communication but our initial contact will be made via text.
- In the event of a short term (class based closure) we would ask that children continue to read, practice maths facts and spellings where possible.
- We are working on more detailed plans for setting work during a long term closure.

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.

Here are some common FAQs with regards to COVID-19 and the government responses:

What do I do if someone in my close family, or someone my children have had close contact with is diagnosed with Covid-19 or has travelled from a country listed as a heightened risk?

Please follow the latest government advice. Make sure you tell NHS 111 that you have a child of school age. Please inform the school as soon as you can.

What do I do if the school tells me there is a proven case of Covid-19?

If there are any proven cases of Covid-19 affecting the school community (child, parent, carer, or staff member), you will be informed as soon as possible. As the current advice stands, schools are being told not to close without direct advice to do so from Public Health England. If there is a confirmed case, and the advice received by the school is to remain open, parents worried about any underlying medical issues should make their own decision about sending children to school. Examples of situations where there may be greater concern include situations where: their child already has a significant health issue; there is little or no

chance children can avoid, whilst attending daily school, coming into close contact with a vulnerable person (ie someone elderly and/or with significant health problems); there is a risk their child could spread the virus to someone looking after a vulnerable person. We would ask parents in these circumstances to contact the school having contacted medical professionals and received further advice relating to their specific circumstances. We would also ask that you keep the school informed of the advice you have been given by medical professionals in assessing any risk to vulnerable people in your families. The school will not insist you send your child to school and, as long as medical advice has been sought, absence will be authorised in these cases.

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS,https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) 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 https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19](https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19) 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, https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus) if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

Finally

This is an entirely new situation that we are dealing with and unlike any we have ever experienced before. We are doing our best to make the right decision for the whole of our school community, taking advice from the DFE, Public Health England, the Local Authority and other nearby schools. New information is being provided daily and we are working hard to ensure that anything we send out is up to date. Please be aware that things will most likely change and our latest communications will be the most accurate.

Our resources will be stretched for some time so please direct any serious concerns to us, but do please allow us good time to respond. Please be assured we are doing our very best to protect and support you and your children.

Thank **you** for your continued support.

Lindsay Gould
Headteacher