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Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the increasing number of measures put in place by the government to try and contain COVID-19, we wish to share with you our plans as we seek to minimise risk in school.

You will, I am sure, be aware the Government has decided to keep schools open for the foreseeable future. The Chief Medical Officer stated that current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The current situation is unprecedented, complex and rapidly changing, and we have a duty of care to our staff as well as our pupils. Whilst we follow the government's advice absolutely, we must put contingency plans in place should we need to close due to staff shortages if we have staff who contract COVID-19 or must self-isolate.

The Department of Education's latest guidance regarding COVID-19 is as follows:

- Staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal.
- If staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home and isolate for 14 days.

Although it is our intention to keep our schools open until advised otherwise by the Department of Education, please be advised that we will need to close if staffing levels become too low for us to be able to safely look after your children. **Should this be the case, you will receive a text message between 7:30am and 8:00am on the day of closure.**

Should the Department of Education decide that schools should close, children will be expected to engage with home learning. Packs for each child have been prepared for this possible eventuality and will be sent home with your child if we are instructed to close.

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In the meantime we are, reluctantly, implementing the following measures with immediate effect:

- Creating places of isolation for pupils who become ill with COVID-19 symptoms whilst they wait for parents/carers to collect them.
- No more whole school assemblies until further notice.
- No Easter services.
- No whole class carpet time.
- Off-site visits cancelled.
- Residential visits cancelled.
- Swimming lessons cancelled.
- No volunteer helpers in school.
- Sports days and Summer Fairs cancelled.
- No further PTFA events until further notice.

These measures have not been taken lightly but they are designed to reduce and minimise close social contact and, therefore, the risk of infection. We have a duty of care to all who work and study in our schools.

We hope you understand the action we have taken. We are in the middle of a national, and global, crisis and we all have a moral duty to do what we can to protect each other and the most vulnerable in our society.

Before and after school clubs will continue.

Lunchtimes will remain organised as they currently are but as soon as a child finishes their lunch, they will leave the dining hall for lunchtime playtime.

We will do our best to maintain our routines and sense of normality in school during these challenging times. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Raistrick
Executive Headteacher

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