



New Haw Community School

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13th March 2020

I am writing with a brief update on the coronavirus situation here at New Haw.

At the time of writing there are still no known cases of coronavirus amongst students or staff at the school. We are continuing to monitor and adhere to the advice coming from the Department of Education and Public Health England and, as such, the school remains open. Apart from an increased emphasis on promoting good basic hygiene habits, systematic approaches to cleaning and vigilance about signs of infection, it remains very much business as usual at New Haw.

Yesterday the government announced that anyone with a persistent cough or high temperature should self-isolate for seven days. Given the time of year, this will obviously apply to a number of pupils (and, very possibly, staff members) over the coming weeks, regardless of whether or not they have coronavirus. Thank you in advance for helping us to uphold this measure. We do appreciate that this will have ramifications for a number of families. Please follow the normal procedure for notifying the school of an absence.

Despite our determination to “stay calm and carry on” as long as we can, without jeopardising the well-being of the students and staff, we have been making precautionary plans for providing continuing education for pupils in the event of the government closing schools.

Please be assured that, in the event of a school closure, staff will set work for all pupils in our school. This work will be made available through the school website. If your family does not have good access to the internet, please do ensure that school is aware of this, so that we can make alternative arrangements. More details will follow if and when the government decides to close schools.

Needless to say, we hope that we will not have to put any of this into practice but, given the current reporting on the situation, it would seem prudent to be prepared for any eventuality. Please rest assured that we will continue to take a sensible approach to the situation at school and do all we can to reassure the children and prevent them from becoming unduly anxious. Schools receive almost-daily bulletins from the government and we will continue to fully comply with their guidance.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We will be in touch with further updates in due course.

Marie Cahill
Executive Headteacher