



13th March 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

As I am sure you are aware the incidence of novel Coronavirus (COVID19) in the UK has significantly increased over the past week and that the Government confirmed yesterday afternoon that the country is moving to the 'delay' phase of infection control.

We are working alongside local schools in the Tarka Partnership to continue to assess the level of risk and alter action plans to review at every stage the wellbeing of pupils and staff. Schools are required to work under the government's guidance. We continue, as responsible schools, to further each child's learning in an atmosphere of support and safety.

I can confirm that there have been **no** confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection at Fremington or any Tarka Learning Partnership schools.

I have heard it stated many times that the COVID19 infection adversely affects the elderly and statements such as this often overlook both families who have an infirm parent or a child who may have short or long term health conditions. It is this group of children that we must take extra care of and therefore self-isolation for those with symptoms is critical. I ask that parents isolate children at home (guidance below) if they have some or all of the following symptoms: -

- a new, continuous cough
- difficulty in breathing
- fever

Head Teachers reserve the right to insist on home isolation if children display the above symptoms and will monitor the length of a child's absence to ensure it meets the guidelines below. Each school will examine future school trips in this country and community gatherings such as parent evenings, deciding locally as to the future of the event. These measures will also be in place for staff working at the school.

Last week we requested that each family travelling abroad this Easter or at any time before the summer term informs school by **Friday 20th March** using the slip provided below. We attach a further copy as a reminder. *Please take no further action if you have filled in this form and returned to the school.* Children who have travelled abroad to category one areas must self-isolate before returning to school. I attach guidance for self-isolation. Head Teachers reserve the right to insist on self-isolation to prevent further infection.

The Government has been assessing future possible actions and may consider closure of schools. Over the past month the schools has created a plan working within government guidance to plan for such a closure. It is essential that we take proactive steps to minimise anxiety and support families if this decision is made.



I would ask that each family, if you haven't already, make a contingency plan to support your child should the school close. If schools close, they may be shut for some time. Any decision about closure will be taken by the Head Teacher, the Chair of Governors and Devon County Council following guidance by Public Health England. **A school may close overnight, so please keep a look out in your phone/ class dojo/ website.**

Our school has a detailed Emergency plan for school closure and if the school closes school we will keep in touch with you and your family through the school's communication systems to provide regular updates, including arrangements for re-opening. In this instance we will use class dojo and our website to communicate with you. If you do not have class dojo please contact the class teacher to be set up.

Our school is committed to supporting our children through this crisis and recognise the pressure and anxiety this is placing on children, parents and staff. I want to take this opportunity to thank parents for your support and I know you will continue to communicate with us. I will keep you updated with any further changes to our preparations or in response to advice.

Yours sincerely,

Lorna Kimberley
Head Teacher

Overseas travel during the Coronavirus Outbreak Easter Holidays 2020

Student/Pupil name: _____

anticipate travelling to _____ (town/city/country) during the Easter holidays.

Parent/carer signature: _____

Name: _____ (Print)

Please return by **20th March 2020** if you are travelling overseas