



19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly can I thank you for all your support at this unprecedented time of national crisis.

Further to the announcements yesterday from the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson and the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, there are some significant factors which still require some clarification over the next 48 hours.

However, the headlines of what was announced will take effect from the end of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March onwards and are as follows:

- It is clear that education and children's social care settings are increasingly finding it difficult to continue as normal, as illness and self-isolation impacts on staffing levels and pupil attendance. To provide parents, student and staff with the certainty they need the Government are announcing that schools, colleges and early years settings will be closed to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, as part of the country's ongoing response to the Coronavirus.

**Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans, so therefore Mayfield School will stay open for all of our children who are not required to self-isolate and don't have underlying medical conditions which expose them to greater risk.**

- The recommendations made earlier in the week still stand, so if one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever (temperature above 37.8°), everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days.

**At the end of this 14 day period, students without underlying medical conditions will be able to return to school, but I must stress that if they exhibit any further symptoms, the whole family will again need to self-isolate for a further 14 days, so please ensure that your child is free of the symptoms above upon their return or sadly we will be asking you to return them home immediately.**

- Others who would normally be advised to have the flu vaccine (such as those with chronic diseases) should isolate at home.

**This includes the list below which I published earlier in the week of Underlying medical conditions that may increase the risk of serious COVID-19 for individuals of any age:**

- Blood disorders (e.g., sickle cell disease or on blood thinners)
- kidney disease as defined by your doctor. Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because kidney disease, or is under treatment for kidney disease, including receiving dialysis
- Chronic liver disease as defined by your doctor. (e.g., cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis) Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because liver disease or is under treatment for liver disease.
- Compromised immune system (immunosuppression) (e.g., seeing a doctor for cancer and treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation, received an organ or bone marrow transplant, taking high doses of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medications, HIV or AIDS)
- Current or recent pregnancy in the last two weeks
- Endocrine disorders (e.g., diabetes mellitus) • Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
- Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
- Lung disease including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) or other chronic conditions associated with impaired lung function or that require home oxygen
- Neurological and neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions [including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury

**We are in unprecedented times and I have a duty of care for all of our pupils and staff which I take very seriously. Without doubt, the announcements made have huge implications for our students and staff but they are all designed to help us protect our students, staff and their families more effectively.**

Please look at the school website homepage <http://www.mayfield.bham.sch.uk/> for regular updates.

**Thank you all for your continuing support so far with this very challenging situation where some difficult decisions will inevitably have to be made and please take care of yourselves and your families.**

Kind regards,



**Simon Harris**

Interim Headteacher

Mayfield School