



Mr A Mahmood  
Head Teacher

**Roman Road  
Junior Mixed and Infant School**  
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Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Update Re Coronavirus and Future Planning

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the increasing risks posed by the Coronavirus, I would like to update you on the school's position and the actions we have taken to date and any measures we may take in the future. This is a crucial time in the education of all our children, but obviously the health of all is paramount. It is therefore important that we all take these risks seriously and are sensible in our approach.

At this point there is no reason to panic and the school remains open and functioning as close to normal as possible. To keep you informed I have highlighted below the actions we have taken thus far and the actions we are taking in the coming weeks to minimise the risk to all of our pupils and staff, while ensuring that their education is affected as little as possible.

I would ask you to continue to keep working with the school to help us to do this.

### What we have done so far

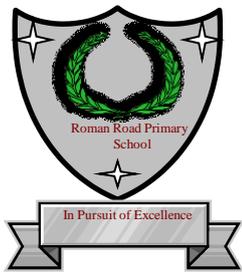
To date, we have passed on to parents/carers the regular advice and guidance that we receive from the Department of Education, Public Health England and The Local Authority.

We have installed extra hand washing facilities throughout the school and ensure children and adults wash their hands first thing in the morning and then regularly throughout the school day ( You may wish to provide your child with hand moisturiser that he/she can keep in draws and use after washing hands)

We have held school assemblies to inform children of the precautions they can take i.e. regular hand washing and continued good hygiene.

Tissues are available in all classrooms.





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We continue to take advice from the Department of Education and Public Health England.

## **What we intend to do in the immediate future**

### **Educational Visits/Trips**

We intend to cancel all educational visits/trips at least until May when we will then review our position depending on advice received and the spread of the virus.

Swimming in year 5 will be cancelled until Easter. To replace this children will be having PE at school until Easter. Please ensure they bring in PE Kit from next week. We will review after Easter.

### **School Events**

For now breakfast club and after school club as well as sports clubs will continue as usual.

We also have a series of class assemblies where children perform to parents and also the rest of the school. As a precautionary measure we are going to postpone or cancel These at least until May.

International Food Day which was planned for the 27<sup>th</sup> March will also be cancelled.

### **Travelling abroad**

We ask all parents and staff to follow Public Health England's advice around travel Please follow the link for more information

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

If you intend to travel abroad over the Easter holiday then please keep the school informed, it would be really helpful to let the school know. The office will be sending a form via School Ping to help you do this.





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## **What to do if your child or someone in your family shows symptoms**

Do not bring your child to school. Ring 111 for expert medical advice. Call the school and keep them informed. If Coronavirus is diagnosed then self-isolate for 14 days, returning to school after receiving medical advice to do so.

IF children are unwell with a temperature or cough keep them home for a week but also telephone NHS 111 for advice.

Please click link for more information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

## **School Closure**

For the moment cases of the coronavirus are very small in England and the school continues to follow advice from Public Health England and the Department of Education. However it is important that we plan for all eventualities however unlikely they may be. With this in mind, we foresee two scenarios for school closure.

### **Scenario 1**

A student or staff member is diagnosed with Coronavirus. In this situation, the infected person and any relations at the school would be asked not to attend school and contact the NHS on 111 for medical advice. If the infected person is at school they would be sent home to again contact the NHS (111) and then self-isolate. They would not be permitted to return without the appropriate medical clearance.

In the meantime the school would seek advice from Public Health, The Local Authority and the Department of Education to determine a length of closure and to





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carry out a deep clean. This may affect the whole school or only part of the school. This closure could last anywhere from one day to one week.

## Scenario 2

If the school is instructed to close by the Department for Education and or Public Health England because of a wider outbreak in our area or in the country, the closure may be for a longer period of time, but you will be informed.

If and when we reach this point parents will be contacted via School Ping and via text message. It is therefore essential that all contact details are up to date. The school office will be sending out forms for you to complete if your contact details have changed.

## What to know about the virus

The incubation period for this strain of Coronavirus (COVID-19) is between 2 to 14 days. That means if a person is well 14 days after contact with someone with a confirmed case, s/he has not been infected.

What are the symptoms?

These include:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever

The virus can cause more severe symptoms in those with weakened immune systems. However, there is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups.

## How does it spread?

The virus is most likely to spread when someone has close contact (i.e. within 2 metres or less) with an infected person.

When an infected person coughs or sneezes, they produce droplets that contain the virus. These droplets are likely to be the most important means of transmission, as:

- Droplets can be directly transferred into the mouths or noses of people who have close contact
- Someone may become infected by touching a surface or object (e.g. a doorknob) that has been contaminated with the droplets and then touching his or her own mouth, nose or eyes

There is currently no good evidence that people who don't have symptoms are infectious to others.





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## Preventing the spread

Steps to take:

You are likely taking the steps below already, as they are the same general principles you use to prevent the spread of any respiratory virus. However, you might still want to talk to your child to make sure they:

- Wash their hands often, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, particularly
  - Before leaving home
  - On arrival at school
  - After using the toilet
  - After breaks and sporting activities
  - Before preparing food
  - Before eating any food, including snacks
  - Before leaving school
- If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- If they feel unwell, stay at home
- If they are worried about their symptoms or those of a child, call NHS 111 and don't go directly to their GP or other healthcare environments.

Please do not send children into school with face masks. As current advice is that they have little effect and could just cause anxiety amongst other children.

For further information please follow the links

## Where to find the latest information

Updates on COVID-19:





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- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Guidance for educational settings:

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

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Educational resources

- <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-resources>
- <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools>

Latest Department for Education information:

Department of Education Coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687

- <https://twitter.com/educationgovuk>
- <https://www.facebook.com/educationgovuk/>





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Thank you in advance for continuing to work with the school in helping keep all the members of our school community as safe as possible whilst helping us continue to ensure the education of our pupils is affected as little as possible.

Yours sincerely

A Mahmood

