



Alameda Middle School

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17th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

You will recall our earlier communication regarding **Coronavirus**, including the letter I sent out yesterday. As you will be aware, shortly after yesterday's letter was sent out, the Prime Minister made a further announcement about some key changes in advice and responses relating to COVID-19.

We continue to follow guidance for educational establishments in the UK provided to us by the Department for Education and informed by Public Health England. We also try to ensure that our response to the situation is well planned and calm. I do hope that our letters have helped you to understand that.

You will no doubt be aware of the main points in the updated advice, which are as follows:

- Avoid unnecessary travel.
- Avoid gatherings in crowded places.
- No unnecessary visits or visitors.
- If there is one person within a household with a new persistent cough (coughing repeatedly) or high temperature (37.8 degrees and above), everyone within the household should self-isolate for 14 days. If you live alone and display these symptoms you should self isolate for 7 days.
- Specific advice on social distancing for vulnerable groups

You will also be aware that schools are expected to stay open. Alameda will remain open in line with this as we also agree that maintaining the learning experience is really important. We also acknowledge our role in supporting families, and are aware that key workers need to be in work, which could be problematic if schools close. We may, however, at some point experience staffing issues which would mean we are unable to keep all children safe and provide an educational experience. We will continue to update you on this and do have a plan in place to provide work for pupils in case we have to fully or partially close. Obviously, this is something we want to avoid at all costs.

In case of closure, we are currently finalising details for supporting families entitled to free school meals as well as considering other support we can offer. We are currently ensuring that pupils can access Edulink and while this is primarily to support with their homework, this is also something we will use if school is to close. We are also looking into ways to support pupils who cannot access online learning.

Self-isolation and work for pupils

As some families are now self-isolating, we would like to provide work for pupils. In order that our teachers can focus on their daily teaching and so that you do not have to contact teachers to make individual requests, we have provided a link to work for all year groups on the website. We will update this regularly.

<http://www.alamedamiddleschool.org.uk/page/?title=Coronavirus+%2D+Self+Isolating+work&pid=77>

If you have any particular requests or are having difficulty accessing the work, you can, contact your child's form tutor or the relevant subject leader or teacher.

As there is specific guidance around social distancing for vulnerable groups, we will fully understand any decisions made by parents for their children to self-isolate. Please contact the absence line in the usual way and be clear about the planned length of absence.

Trips and Visits

With the added advice around avoiding unnecessary visits or visitors, we are also reviewing our school calendar to look at events and visitors that may be cancelled or postponed. We will update you further on this once more decisions are made.

We have postponed forthcoming interviews and will limit visitors into school including outside coaches. Unfortunately, this will have an impact on the extra-curricular offer. Peripatetic music teachers are still coming into school to teach lessons and we will update you if this changes. Clubs delivered by Alameda staff after school and during lunch will continue. We will write to you again tomorrow to clarify which clubs will still run and those which will not.

After school care club will not be affected at this time.

Handwashing

Throughout the last few weeks, you will be aware that we have been advising the pupils on handwashing and have included discussions around COVID-19 in Community Time. While it would not be age appropriate for our pupils at middle school to be supervised while handwashing on an individual basis, and large numbers of pupils mean that it is not possible to send everyone at once, we are going to ask and remind pupils to wash their hands at key times. The first time is on arrival at school. Please could you help to reinforce this message as it will help for pupils to wash their hands in the morning on their way to form time after putting their bag into their locker. Form tutors and senior staff will issue reminders. Pupils will then be told to wash their hands before eating, as part of the lunch queue procedures.

In addition to all of this, we think it is important to maintain calm and to reassure pupils. We would like to thank you for your support.

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



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Business Manager



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Headteacher