

16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We are getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that at DWHS we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Public Health England.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given.
- All daily school functions continue to run as normal.
- All students should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally.
- The Y8 parents evening on the 26th March has been postponed.
- The Y8 Mathematics Trip to Oxford has been cancelled.
- The Y10 Swanage Trip has been postponed.
- The Y7 Bristol Trip has been postponed.
- The Globe theatre has been cancelled.
- Ofqual's advice is to continue to prepare for exams as normal, as all public examinations are expected to run in the usual way.

We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

In line with Public Health England advice, all staff and students have been asked to use the tissues provided in every classroom to both cough and sneeze into. The hand wash dispensers in the school toilets are being checked and replenished daily if required.

- If a student presents with a temperature above 37.8 they will be sent home.
- We have reinforced our expectations regarding handwashing in all assemblies.

What we need you to do

- If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email to info@dwhs.co.uk.
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It is an uncertain time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.



Dormers Wells High School

MATHS AND COMPUTING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

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- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).
- Please check that your child has access to Office 365 from home, and let us know if there are any issues so we can make sure we are well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point.

What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will:

- As per our policy, we will communicate updates and information via our school website, our twitter feed and via text messages to parents/carers.
- Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. **There are currently no plans to close.**

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue.
- NHS, if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use NHS 111 online if at all possible before calling 111.
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools.
- Government's travel advice, if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead.

These are uncertain times and we know you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. It is important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Ms R Walsh
Headteacher



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