

RAWMARSH SANDHILL PRIMARY

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Kilnhurst Road, Rotherham, S62 5LH



Dear Parents,

I write further to the statement delivered by the Prime Minister yesterday (PM statement on coronavirus: 16 March 2020).

I can confirm that with immediate effect if your child or anyone within the household in which they live has one of two key symptoms: a high temperature (classified as 37.8C or above) or a new, continuous cough, then they should stay at home for fourteen days.

I would be grateful if you would continue to report your child's absence to school as normal. Wherever possible, please report Coronavirus related-absences by MyEd or email in the first instance. This will help us to manage the high volume of calls we are currently experiencing.

As stated in a previous letter, we are well-prepared for the situation, with excellent systems in place. Children will receive a pack of activities and work including writing and maths tasks and research projects. There will be continued access to our online website resources and class pages and these will be updated regularly by teaching staff.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure the continued education of their children by encouraging them to complete the work set for them online. Updates will be posted on Dojo so if you do not have an account, please make sure you download the app and get in touch with school for an access code. Teachers have had guidance on the various methods of setting work remotely and in most cases this relies on the teachers and pupils using online resources in some way. Given that the majority of pupils or families have some access to internet-enabled phones, we believe this to be the best method of communication.

In addition to the procedures the Trust have already taken to reduce the spread of infection, we are implementing a social distancing measure. It is our intention to reduce and limit large groups of people coming together in school. These measures are being implemented to restrict when and where people can gather to stop or slow the spread of infectious diseases.

With this in mind, all school productions (shows), parents' evening and open evenings will be cancelled for the foreseeable future.

We will continue to monitor school trips and visits, at this stage we all make a decision on a case by case basis. However, all trips aboard will be cancelled/postponed until future notice.

This is a very difficult time for all concerned. In situations like this we need your support to ensure that the school can run effectively. As a Trust we are doing our utmost to keep our schools open in line with national guidance daily, ensuring that we maintain high standards of education for all our pupils. However, daily we are having to manage high staff absence, which is putting additional demands on school leaders, teachers and support staff within the schools. Over the course of the next few days, weeks and months we may have to make difficult decisions to sustain students and staff safety and wellbeing.



Issues we are facing:

1. We are currently experiencing high levels of teacher absence – so this may mean that classes may have to be collapsed and this may result in larger class sizes, partial opening and restricting school opening to specific year groups for example; Y2, Y6, Y11 and Y13.
2. Likewise, a high level of staff absence of support staff may impact on the support we are able to provide for children with additional needs, so that provision may have to be combined across year groups.
3. The absence of kitchen staff may mean a reduced choice of school meals available and in particular schools may be unable to provide a daily hot meal. Rest assured an alternative packed lunch choice will be made available.

We recognise that these are unprecedented times and the situation changes daily, both locally and nationally, but we are committed to keeping our schools calm and purposeful for the young people in our care. Whilst students are in school it is vitally important that they maintain high levels of behaviour in the classroom and excellent standards of conduct both in and around school, your support in reminding your child of this would be really appreciated.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and should we get any new further advice from Public Health England, the Department for Education or Rotherham Local Authority, we will inform you immediately.

As always, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via email or MyEd.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ainsworth

You can find more information about COVID-19 on

- NHS guidance
- NHS Frequently Asked Questions
- Advice for people travelling
- Guidance for non-clinical settings (education, employers and businesses, social, community care and residential settings)

The Department for Education has also launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows: Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk