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17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

We are writing to provide a further update on managing the Covid 19 (Coronavirus) outbreak following changes that were reported last night by the Prime Minister.

The most significant changes to highlight from the government are that anyone who has a **new continuous cough or high temperature** should be sent home. This includes parents, children and staff. This is a precautionary measure and does **not** mean that they have a confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19. At this point in time we have **not** had any confirmed cases of Covid-19.

**New government advice** is that if a household has a person, who has a new continuous cough and or high temperature within it other members of the household must self-isolate too even if they are well. The household member who is not unwell must isolate for 14 days. This period starts from the date the first person fell ill. Fourteen days is the incubation period for coronavirus; people who remain well after 14 days are reportedly unlikely to be infectious. Please see the following guidelines for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#ending-isolation>. As a school, this will include parents, children and staff.

In addition, any person falling within a vulnerable group: persons over 70 years old, people who are normally advised to have the flu vaccine due to a medical condition, and women who are pregnant are advised to minimise social contact. We have exercised this guidance where appropriate.

We have sent staff and children home if they have fallen into any of the categories above, following the guidelines from Public Health England (PHE). I want to make it very clear that this does **NOT** mean they have a positive diagnosis. We are doing what we have been asked to do by the authorities. We continue to monitor the situation very closely.

If any family has a confirmed advice of Covid-19 or are self-isolating for any reason you must communicate with the school.

As a further precaution we are taking the following actions from today:

- All trips are **cancelled** till after the Easter break at which time we will review the situation.
  - All assemblies are **cancelled** until further notice.
  - We have taken the decision to **cancel** swimming lessons.
  - Parent events or workshops are **cancelled** until further notice.
- ✓ After school clubs and 6 o'clock club **will continue** till further notice.

We have today, reminded all our children and staff to continue washing their hands more often than usual. Our cleaning company is continuing to disinfect and clean the school on a daily basis. In addition, any PE equipment is also sanitised prior to use.

In the event of government direction to close the school, we have created home learning resources on the website that is now accessible. We are in the process of preparing paper packs should this be required.

If your child feels better and no longer has a high temperature, s/he can return to school. If there have not been any signs of improvement and you have not already sought medical advice, you should contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111.

We have posted a link on our website to NHS handwashing advice and the NHS handwashing song. Please share these with your families.

We understand that this is a very worrying time for children, parents, and staff. We urge you to continue to support each other including the school. We are responding as quickly as possible to information as we receive it. It is not helpful to post incorrect information on social media at this time. Everybody is concerned and we need to come together in spirit and support to get through this very challenging time.

There are a number of food banks operating in the borough that can support families who may be facing food shortages:

- **Southwark Foodbank (PECAN)** - 020 773 20007 / <https://www.pecan.org.uk/southwark-foodbank>  
Five centres operating in the borough with opening times and locations listed on its website.
- **Oasis Foodbank** - 0207 357 7331  
Has one distribution centre in Southwark at St George The Martyr Church. Borough High St, London, SE1 1JA
- **Central Southwark Community Hub** - 020 7703 1653 / <https://www.cschub.co.uk/>  
Four centres in the borough with locations and opening hours listed on its website. Clients need to be referred to Margaret Taribo ([margaret.taribo@cschub.co.uk](mailto:margaret.taribo@cschub.co.uk)) before a visit is made.
- **Camberwell Community Fridge** – 020 7737 6186 / Albrighton Centre  
Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays



HEALTHY SCHOOLS  
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- **The Borough Free Fridge** – 02073577331 / St George The Martyr Church, Borough High Street, SE1 1JA  
Open Tuesday afternoon, 2-5pm.

We would like to again reiterate we do **not** have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our school. We are following public health advice and any member of staff with a continuous cough and or temperature is self-isolating as well as any staff member that is considered vulnerable under the defined vulnerable group.

Any general updates will be posted to the website as well. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like to discuss the content of this letter with a member of staff.

If you require a copy of this letter, please request one at the school office.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Christiansen  
Head of School

