



# Alexander Hosea Primary School

*'Roots to grow, wings to fly'*

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Headteacher: Mrs D Williams



Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **COVID-19 (coronavirus) update**

I am writing to update you on the developing situation of the coronavirus. We continue to follow the official advice from Public Health England and Department for Education. Whilst schools in most of Europe have been closed, you will be aware that schools in the UK remain open at present. Should we be told to close, we will inform parents.

As of today, we have been informed that a member of KS1 staff and several children (in different year groups), are displaying symptoms (persistent cough and high temperature) that are closely aligned to those suffering from the coronavirus. The majority of these individuals were in school on Friday and are now self-isolating for seven days. As nationally only those in hospital are now being tested, these individuals may never be tested or confirmed as having COVID-19.

Following advice from Public Health, the school will remain open as normal. Family members (including those in the same household) are not required to self-isolate with the person with symptoms, unless they too develop symptoms.

We have thermometers in the school office and we are checking all children, who say they are feel unwell as a matter of course. We will contact parents to collect their child if they develop a persistent cough or have a high temperature during the school day. The normal arrangement of 48 hours away from school applies in the event of sickness or diarrhoea.

With regards to your own children, the most recent guidance is for anyone with a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above) and/or a new continuous cough should stay at home and self-isolate for seven days from the point of displaying the symptoms. You will need to contact the school in the normal way on the first day of absence by phoning or emailing the school email. We will authorise any such absence. If you are calling in about an absence, please provide detailed information about symptoms, as we are tracking these.

As a protective measure, we have asked that staff only attend meetings or training sessions that are urgent/statutory for the time being and we may postpone other school events in the run up to Easter (eg Parents' Evening). In line with this, we have taken the decision to postpone the whole school trip to Bristol Zoo. This will now be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. The Zoo have very kindly matched the price of the visit (as costs normally increase for summer months), so that there is no additional cost for parents.

As there may come a time when school closures are implemented, teachers are preparing weekly home learning sheets for children to complete if they are unable to come to school. These will be emailed to parents with children at home on a weekly basis.

I would finally like to reassure you that we will continue to prioritise health and well-being over everything else. We will continue to highlight the need to wash hands regularly and thoroughly and the school will follow all advice from Public Health England. We will continue to do all we can to support students, parents and staff through these unprecedented times.

Best regards,

Mrs Deb Williams