



**ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust**  
Keelings Road, Northwood, Stoke on Trent, ST1 6QA  
Telephone: 01782 236745 Fax: 01782 234639  
Executive Principal: Mrs S Moran

*“Every child deserves to be the best they can be”*

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent /Carer

### **Coronavirus Update 3**

As the spread of coronavirus continues, your school and Esprit Multi Academy Trust remain vigilant to all the advice we receive from Public Health England and the DfE. We promised to keep you up to date with what we are doing in these very challenging times.

So far we have;

- Kept you updated about the work we are doing to keep your children safe.
- Set up an emergency working group to respond quickly to the advice from Health and Government departments.
- Put in place additional very robust health and safety processes in each school to prevent the spread of infection.
- Developed a detailed action plan based on the most recent health and education advice.

As you may be aware there was a significant Cobra press briefing last night and this has had direct impact on our schools. The guidance issued at that press conference and subsequent emails that have now come into school mean that;

- At the moment, the government is advising schools to stay open, however, it "may be necessary" to close them in the future, according to the government's chief scientific adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance.
- We may need to close one or all of our schools at very short notice if we need to complete a 'deep clean' or if we do not have sufficient staff to open. If this happens, we will follow our normal 'emergency closure' procedures and only remain closed for however long is necessary.
- Our staff are busy preparing work for your children to do at home should the school need to close, either for a short period or for a longer period.
- We need you to respond to the parent pay question regarding the ICT your child has access to at home (if you haven't already done so).
- We will immediately stop the use of throwaway plastic bottles and any refillable bottle that does not have a spout.
- We will immediately stop any children bringing toys or stationary from home.

In terms of the latest health guidance, the following applies:

- Children must wash their hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
- If any member of your household shows symptoms of a temperature of 37.8 degrees or higher and/or a new continuous cough, all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**.
- If your child is showing coronavirus symptoms, no matter how mild, then they need to stay at home for **7 days** from when their symptoms started, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.
- All household members living with the child must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**.



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- The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- If your child has coronavirus symptoms:
  - do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
  - phone your child’s school to inform them
  - you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you’re staying at home
  - testing for coronavirus is not needed if you’re staying at home

If you feel you cannot cope with your child’s symptoms at home, or their condition gets worse, or their symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Some questions that we have been asked by parents;

<i>I don't think my child has coronavirus, they just have a bit of a temperature and a snuffle. Do I need to keep my child and her sister at home?</i>	<i>If your child is showing symptoms of a temperature of 37.8 degrees or higher and/or a new continuous cough, then they need to stay at home for <b>7 days</b> from when their symptoms started. All household members living with the child must stay at home and not leave the house for <b>14 days</b>.</i>
<i>I am 12 weeks pregnant and only I can bring my children to school. What do I do?</i>	Check <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults</a> <i>And seek advice from your Health Visitor</i>

We will continue to communicate regularly as we are aware that the local and national picture is quickly changing. We appreciate your support in what are very difficult and challenging times. Staffing is likely to also become more challenging however we are determined to ensure business continues as usual, **however I must stress that this could change at very short notice and our schools, like others may be forced to close.**

Please note that this would not be the Trust, or the Head teacher’s decision, but would be at the direction of Public Health England or the Government. As a Trust we are trying to make our actions informed and proportionate so that we can continue to serve our children, families, staff and wider community well in these challenging times. For links to further advice and guidance please see overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Moran



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#### Advice and Guidance

Government latest guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Travel: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Public Health England Q & A: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline: Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Home guidance for self isolating <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

#### Staying at home/ self isolating for vulnerable groups

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>