

# Mengham Junior School

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16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We thought it would be helpful to share our school's response to the latest government advice about the coronavirus outbreak and to clarify what this means for us.

Current advice states that if a child or member of staff develops a new persistent cough or has a raised temperature then they should self-isolate for 7 days. This means staying at home and not coming into school. The advice is that the school does not need to close if a member of the school community is self-isolating.

If your child shows either of these symptoms then please contact the school via **Study Bugs** <https://studybugs.com/about/parents> or by phoning the school office. Your child should then remain at home for the following 7 days. If you need to come to school to bring and collect siblings, then the child self-isolating **must not** come with you. We would obviously also not expect anyone reported as self-isolating to be seen out and about in the local community due to the obvious risks.

If a child falls ill with either of these symptoms during the school day then we will contact you in the usual way, asking you to collect your child from school as soon as possible. Whilst we wait for you to arrive, we will do our best to keep your child isolated from other children and staff.

Where a child is symptomatic and absent from school we have been given an absence code to use to track all related absences. Where a child is not symptomatic and is absent from school simply as a precautionary measure this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Should a member of staff develop these symptoms, they too must self-isolate for 7 days. At this time, we have no idea how many staff will be affected or when this might happen. As you can imagine, this will make planning for the day-to-day running of the school challenging. Schools are currently being asked to remain open unless they have been specific instructions to close. Should we find ourselves without enough staff to run the school with its current structure, then it may be necessary to close either a class or year group. If the school is given instructions to close, this will be communicated to you in the same way as we would communicate a closure for snow, i.e. a text message sent to all parents and a message on the school and county website. The health of the whole school community needs to be our primary concern at this time and no decision will be taken without first consulting Public Health England and the Department for Education.

At Mengham Junior School we strive to be successful learners, healthy and confident individuals, responsible members of our community



In anticipation of a possible school closure or in the event you need to isolate your child, we are providing workbooks for your child free of charge. They are yours to keep and they do not need to be returned for marking. It is our hope that you will continue to support your child's learning by completing these books and by reading frequently with your child if possible. Year 6 children are advised to continue to use their revision guides as learning tools at home.

Should we receive any further advice from either the local authority, Public Health England or the government we will act accordingly.

We know that you will want to do all that you can to keep your own family and the rest of the school community well, so please do make sure that if your child develops a temperature or a new persistent cough that you keep them at home to self-isolate for the full 7 days. Thank you in advance for all your support through these very unusual circumstances.

Best wishes

Odele Davies and Edward Harrison  
Co-Headteachers

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