



17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### **RE: Preparation for Potential school closure due to the spread of coronavirus**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We continue to face an ever-changing situation with guidance and advice altering on a daily basis. Following last night's announcement from the government, those who present with the symptoms of:

- a new, continuous cough
- or a high temperature of 37.8c or above to avoid spreading infection to others are to self-isolate for 14 days as is every member of the household.

They are also advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures. This group includes those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (ie anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
- chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
- chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy diabetes
- problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
- being seriously overweight (a BMI of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant

This presents schools with a range of challenges as obviously this guidance applies to not just children but all adults including staff that work in school with your children on a daily basis. In

the event that the Governing Body deem the level of staffing available to work does not meet DfE Health & Safety guidance then we may have to close some classes, year groups or full closure of the school. This decision is always a difficult one and I can assure you that it will not be taken lightly.

While there is currently no cause for concern at either of our schools, we will keep you updated with any developments on a daily basis, including whether we will need to close.

Current guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) remains that schools stay open; however, it is possible that this advice may change as the spread of coronavirus continues. If we are required to close our school, we will take the necessary steps to ensure you are informed of the closure and that the effect on pupils' education is limited.

In the event that we do close all or parts of our two schools, you will be informed via the School Spider App and the Somerville Federation Website [www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk](http://www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk) We will also endeavour to advise you on how long we expect the closure to last. Please check that you have provided us with your most up-to-date contact details(email address and mobile number and have downloaded the school spider app) to ensure you receive any correspondence regarding a closure. If you need to provide us with new details, please contact the school office (write in the subject line NEW CONTACT DETAILS).

### **Arrangements for a school closure and self-isolation**

This week we have created a new Coronavirus page on the school's website signposting parents to the latest guidance from the government and videos from Public Health England. The page also has a link to another page within our website called working from home where a range of home learning resources, challenges and activities to support your child's learning whilst either self-isolating or in the event of school closure.

In the meantime, we will continue to implement additional health protection measures and follow the relevant advice issued by the DfE and PHE.

**Please note that we are not confirming that either of our two schools will close – we want to reassure you that if this were to happen, we are fully prepared to take action.**

With regards



Mr M J Forber  
Executive Headteacher