

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – 8pm**

Dear Parents,

I wrote to you yesterday with an update about the situation with COVID-19. Our team have spent the day speaking to many parents about the situation, and reviewing the guidance from government so I wanted to update you again. I hope to continue a daily update whilst this information is changing.

**What is the updated advice over the last two days?**

The health guidance was updated and now states that;

- The symptoms of the virus are a high temperature **and/or** a new continuous cough. Everyone living with someone showing symptoms of the virus (and the person themselves) must **self-isolate for 14 days**
- People should avoid unnecessary social contact including not visiting restaurants, pubs and theatres
- From the weekend, pregnant women, those over 70 and those with underlying health issues should limit social contact for 12 weeks
- All unnecessary travel should be limited, and people should work from home where they can.

**If your child or anyone in your household has these symptoms, everyone in your home should stay at home for 14 days. If your child has an underlying health condition that makes them more vulnerable to coronavirus, please let us know.** Information on the stay at home advice from Government is here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>. NHS guidance is here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

**Is the school open - should you send your child to school tomorrow?**

**The school remains open.**

The government advice is that all schools should remain open if at all possible. We have been lucky enough to maintain relatively low levels of staff absence and so we will remain open until the situation changes. We will be open to all year groups tomorrow and hope to be able to see as many pupils at school as possible.

There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our pupils or in our staff.

The government advice to self-isolate all pupils who have shown a **persistent cough** or a **temperature** from has meant that a significant number of pupils have been absent over the last couple of days. If a pupil shows any symptoms they and their siblings are being immediately sent home for 14 days. There is upgraded cleaning and hygiene measures are in place.

Despite these measures parents have been worried about the risk of sending their child to school. We understand the concerns parents have. Each parent must make their own decision, but I wanted to be clear about why sending your child to school remains current government advice:

- Your child is unlikely to become seriously ill themselves if they are infected with the virus – the virus has a relatively mild impact on almost all children.
- The measures are in place in school to minimise the risk of infection
- Your child can be engaged and learn in school. It is very likely that schools will close at some point, and when they do, it will be a challenge for pupils and parents – the government

wants to delay this challenging period until it is necessary and limit the amount of school pupils miss

- By being in school schools can prepare the children for closure. In King Solomon Academy, this is particularly important as we are trying to make sure that all the pupils have the right access to learning in the event of closure. If they are not in school it makes it hard to prepare them.

### **What should I do if my child is self-isolating?**

#### **If your child is well but at home, they need to be learning.**

If your child is significantly unwell, they should rest and follow medical advice. If, however, they are self-isolating in a precautionary way and are well enough to learn, they must start to make use of the remote learning resources they have been given. In Primary, this means starting the written packs, in Secondary, it means accessing the online resources they have been given access to.

#### **Informing the school**

Please continue to communicate with the school. If your child is absent, we will want to know the reason, and to check they are OK. Please fill in the [pupil absence form](#). If you have said that your child is self-isolating for 14 days you do not need to inform us every day, but we may be in contact to support and communicate with you.

#### **Planning for the days and weeks ahead**

Please be assured that we have plans in place to ensure that we can remain open despite any possible staff absences. We also have plans in place to ensure that your child will continue to be educated even if we are asked to close by the government. These plans are given [here](#).

Thank you to all the parents who have shared words of encouragement to our staff. I am very grateful to the staff for all they are doing to continue to keep the school open and prepare for any possible closure. They are committed to making the best of this very difficult situation.

Best wishes,

**Mr M. Haimendorf**  
**Principal**  
**King Solomon Academy**