

Coastal Learning Partnership

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Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus update

It is not necessarily my intention to write to parents on this subject on a daily basis, although it is playing out that way at the moment!

However, at the start of a new week, it seems appropriate to reiterate our latest position and provide any new updates.

You will have seen that our strategy is to keep in step with Government advice and guidance - updated to schools on a daily basis – and to maintain a sensible, proportionate response.

At the current time the most important point is that every single member of our Partnership community takes absolutely seriously the core government advice about:

- Regular handwashing (catch it, bin it, kill it)
- Self-isolation for 7 days if anyone believes they are experiencing the coronavirus symptoms of:
 - new continuous cough and/or
 - high temperature (above 37.8°C)

We have not yet asked our schools to cancel routine events which are held within the confines of individual schools for example school assemblies. We will keep this under review.

Similarly, we are aware that some schools have scheduled events such as parents' evenings coming up. Again, we are not currently advising routine cancellation but parents are again reminded that if they – or their children – are symptomatic, then self-isolation applies and they are expected to not attend any such sessions. Similarly, parents should minimise their time at school as much as possible by not arriving early, leaving straight away and of course hand washing before and after your visit.

Having said that, we think it is a sensible precaution to cancel events which encourage the 'mixing' of large groups who wouldn't usually mix. Therefore, our schools will not be participating with events like sports fixtures and concerts – in all probability, such events will be cancelled anyway. Similarly, schools will not proceed with events like Easter services and so on, in anticipation that government advice by that time will discourage such things anyway.

On the subject of school closure, our position remains the same: schools will not close unless required to do so by Public Health England. We are mindful that increased staff absence may put schools under pressure and we will manage those situations as they arise.

In the meantime, schools continue to make plans for possible school closures in the future.

Thanks again to our parents for their continued understanding and support. I am sure you will join me in extending thanks to all our staff as they persevere through unusual and challenging circumstances.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Howieson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Howieson

CEO, Coastal Learning Partnership