

4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you in light of the ongoing media stories and the local school closures in the Torbay area and to update you regarding the advice we have been given about Coronavirus.

As a school, we need to follow the advice given to us by the Local Authority and Public Health England. We are receiving daily communication from the Local Authority about what is happening and school advice on what to do if we have concerns or suspected cases.

The government have provided specific guidance for educational settings and it is important to note that Public Health state in section 5 of the advice for educational settings:

***“If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in a childcare or educational setting, no restrictions or special control measures are required while laboratory test results for COVID-19 are awaited. There is no need to close the setting or send other learners or staff home.”***

If there was a confirmed case at the school, Public Health would contact us and we would follow their instructions. We will continue to check the daily updates and we will respond to the information and guidance if it changes. Section 6 of the guidance states:

***“The childcare or educational setting will be contacted by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team to discuss the case, identify people who have been in contact with them and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken. An assessment of each childcare or education setting will be undertaken by the Health Protection Team with relevant staff. Advice on the management of pupils or students and staff will be based on this assessment.”***

I wanted to write and inform you that at present there is no reason to close the school and any school closure would be as a result of direct guidance from Public Health and the Local Authority.

There is clear information from Public Health England regarding prevention and we are talking to the children about good handwashing and general good hygiene.

**If you have any questions about Coronavirus you can contact the helpline:**

**Phone: 08000468687**

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

As we are receiving such regular updates and guidance can I reassure you that we will pass on any changes to the advice.

Kind regards

Mrs Edwards

Head of Academy



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