

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You can not have missed last week's press conference from the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, detailing the Government's plan to move to delay the spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus rather than simply contain it, in the hope of moving the peak of cases away from the winter pressures on the NHS. The Government message is:

- That all decisions are based on scientific advice
- We are now in the 'Delay' Phase.
- Schools in the UK will remain open for the time being
- Anyone with new symptoms such as a high temperature of 37.8C (100F) or more, a continuous cough and flu like symptoms should stay at home for 7 days
- The peak of the virus is not likely to be until sometime in May
- At this stage major events have not yet been banned
- That we all need to continue with thorough hand washing and ensure good hygiene at all times

Schools and school closures have formed the topic of much discussion but the current recommendations are clear that schools should remain open. Until we are advised otherwise, Beechfield, Cherry Tree and Laurance Haines schools will remain open.

**If your child is showing new symptoms such as a high temperature of 37.8C (100F) or more or a continuous cough and flu like symptoms then please keep them at home for a full 7 days.** Staff with the same symptoms have also been told to do the same. We have examples of staff from each school who are self-isolating and anticipate more to come as the days go by. Government advice on how to self-isolate can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

**HAVE I GOT A COLD, FLU OR COVID-19?**

SYMPTOMS	CORONAVIRUS	COLD	FLU
FEVER	Common	Rare	Common
FATIGUE	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
COUGH	Common (usually dry)	Mild	Common (usually dry)
SNEEZING	No	Common	No
ACHES & PAINS	Sometimes	Common	Common
RUNNY OR STUFFY NOSE	Rare	Common	Sometimes
SORE THROAT	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
DIARRHOEA	Rare	No	Sometimes for Children
HEADACHES	Sometimes	Rare	Common
SHORTNESS OF BREATH	Sometimes	No	No

### Tips for staying at home

It's important to stay at home to stop coronavirus spreading.

#### Do

- ✓ try to keep at least 2 metres (3 steps) from other people in your home, particularly older people or those with long-term health conditions
- ✓ ask friends and family and delivery services to deliver things like food shopping and medicines – but avoid contact with them
- ✓ sleep alone if possible
- ✓ regularly wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ try to stay away from older people and those with long-term health conditions
- ✓ drink plenty of water and take everyday painkillers, such as paracetamol and ibuprofen, to help with your symptoms

#### Don't

- ✗ do not have visitors (ask people to leave deliveries outside)
- ✗ do not leave the house, for example to go for a walk, to school or public places

Senior staff are meeting daily to react to Government updates and to review measures to reduce chances of infection across our school community. So far we have:

- Established a critical incident team to plan for all eventualities
- Raised awareness of the symptoms closely linked to Covid-19 Coronavirus and the precautionary measures through visual displays, assemblies and lessons

- Purchased additional quantities of liquid soap, tissues and toilet paper
- Identified contact hotspots e.g. door handles, handrails, etc for additional cleaning
- Sent children and staff home who have displayed symptoms
- Cancelled whole school assemblies and replaced these with class-based ones

We are currently considering a number of actions, some of which we have already started to explore. Over the next few days, we will look to address the following:

- Staggering break and lunch times to reduce concentrated contact
- Review and postpone/cancel all non-essential activities such as sporting fixtures and offsite visits
- Identify members of the community (student and staff) with underlying medical conditions which place them in the 'at risk' group
- Prepare online learning resources/programmes in case of closure
- Host a Covid-19 Coronavirus update page on each of the school's websites
- Prepare physical learning resources for those without internet/computer access
- Review before and afterschool clubs
- Review provision for our most vulnerable families
- Review provision for those families with key workers such as hospital staff

The school will continue to work closely with relevant authorities to make decisions which are in the interests of all members of the community. However, to support the safety, wellbeing and continued learning of pupils the school asks that all families support us by doing the following:

- Sign up to the school and Trust twitter to be able to access all current guidance and relevant information

IMAT	Beechfield	Cherry Tree	Laurance Haines
@InclusiveMAT	@BFS_Watford	@CTS1_Watford	@LHS_Watford
@IMAT_CEO	@HeadBeechfield	@HeadCherryTree1	@HeadLHS

- Sign up to Arbor as per letters sent recently and check that your details (telephone number and email address) are correct, in order to maintain communication throughout the process
- Talk to your child(ren) about hygiene practices and make use of relevant sites to reduce anxiety
- To reduce calls to the office and therefore allowing staff to effectively manage this busy period, please email sickness rather than phoning in –
  - [sickness@beechfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sickness@beechfield.herts.sch.uk)
  - [admin@cherrytree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cherrytree.herts.sch.uk)
  - [sickness@lhaines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sickness@lhaines.herts.sch.uk)
- Check that logins for online curriculum programmes such as Mathletics, TT Rockstars and IXL work
- If your child is particularly vulnerable to the effects of the virus or you have a family member that is in a high-risk category, please contact your school's Headteacher to discuss this

The situation across England, Europe and the World is changing rapidly, as such, we will update you regularly. This is a time of unprecedented difficulty and as such we all need to support on another. Please look after yourselves, your family and each other. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



James Roach  
Chief Executive Officer  
Inclusive Multi Academy Trust