

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust Schools,

Re: Update Regarding Advice to Schools for Covid-19 Coronavirus

I am writing to update you on the current situation across our schools and how the staff at Oak Trees have worked tremendously hard to ensure the continued effective running of our schools.

Whilst these are unprecedented and challenging circumstances, I would like to reassure all parents that we are taking all necessary steps to protect the children and staff at the schools. This includes following all advice given by Public Health England and the Department of Health, as well as liaising with the Local Authority to ensure that we have a joined-up policy with other schools across Wirral.

The key change to policy following last night's announcement is:

'If one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days.'

Whilst we understand that this can be very disruptive to you and your daily lives, it is vital that this advice is followed, and as schools we will contact any parent of a child who appears to have a persistent cough or fever immediately to avoid the unnecessary spread of infection. A small number of families are still sending pupils in with coughs and colds, and I would ask that parents and carers follow the 14-day rule, otherwise this is potentially spreading the virus around the school and putting other pupils and staff in danger of catching it.

The health of our pupils and staff is our number one priority, and this is particularly challenging as the situation and advice is changing on a daily basis. As schools, we have introduced a number of measures aimed at reducing the risk of transmission and protecting each other. These include:

- Regular staff briefings to monitor the situation and ensure good communication
- Cancelling any non-essential trips, clubs and visitors
- Cancelling any non-essential staff visits, courses and meetings
- Staff ensuring that they and pupils wash their hands regularly throughout the day
- Cancelling assemblies and parents' evenings
- Increasing the level of staff in the hall at lunchtimes to ensure all surfaces are wiped effectively
- Increasing cleaning in key areas
- Increasing the level of hygiene resources in school.

A number of parents across our schools have contacted us as they are concerned about receiving a fine for low attendance for their child. I can assure you that, in these unprecedented circumstances, no parent will receive a fine for non-attendance, nor will this be marked on their child's attendance record as unauthorised. Our priority is the health, safety and welfare of all our families and carers and as previously stated, if one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever we will insist that they and any siblings stay at home for 14 days. If a child is sent home from school with symptoms, they will also be required to self-isolate with the rest of the family for 14 days.

Some parents have also requested homework and extra work for their children if they are self-isolating. Our priority has been and continues to be the welfare of the pupils and staff still in the schools, and as such we will not be sending work home at this time. If schools close

let's school

Stanton Road
Primary School
Stanton Road
Bebington, Wirral
UK
CH63 3HW

Website: oaktreesmat.co.uk
Telephone: 0151 334 1398
Email: admin@oaktreesmat.co.uk

Companies house Number:
1064 1561

Our schools
Great Meols Primary School
Poulton Lancelyn Primary School
Egremont Primary School
Stanton Road Primary School
Church Drive Primary School



completely, which could be any time over the coming days and weeks, we will ensure that work is available for every child to access at home, but at this time we are prioritising those currently still in school. There are many websites available with free to download activities should you wish your child to do some additional work whilst at home, including www.Twinkl.co.uk which currently has a free month's subscription. We would also suggest reading as much as possible or other websites either free to subscribe to by the schools. (e.g. Bug Club, Mathletics, Times Tables Rock Stars)

As we move forward, it may be necessary to close our schools partially, and perhaps fully at some stage, if we do not have sufficient staff in place to safely look after our children. This will only be in cases where it is essential and would not be a decision taken lightly, but again the health and welfare of the staff and children must come first.

I am immensely proud of the professionalism and calmness shown by the Oak Trees school staff and children in these difficult times, and of the support and cooperation of parents and carers. I will continue to update you as we know more, with daily updates from the Prime Minister impacting on how we operate each day, and thank you again for your patience and support.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Lacey

Chief Executive Officer

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust