



13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are monitoring the situation regarding Coronavirus COVID-19 on a daily basis and following guidance from Public Health England. However, given the current uncertainty, we wanted to update you on our contingency plans for a variety of scenarios, including a temporary closure if instructed to do so by Public Health England.

If we are forced to close, children will be able to access a variety of online materials through DB Primary, Times Table Rock Stars and Oxford Reading Buddy. We will also ensure that during the next week links to suitable website and online learning materials will be available via the school website. Staff are also preparing materials we can send home for those who cannot access the internet.

We hope that implementing such plans will not be necessary but we will endeavour to ensure that any potential disruption to our children's education is minimal. We are also reviewing all trips, events, fixtures and visits and will update as and when decisions are made. At present, this will be on a case by case basis.

In these circumstances, rumours on social media and online news outlets can sometimes cause confusion. To ensure reliable and clear communication from the school, our website www.widnesacademy.co.uk and twitter feed @widnes_academy alongside the Widnes Academy Facebook page will be used as the official method of communication in the event of temporary closure.

Our current intention is to reassure, not to alarm, and we are continuing with our advice to students to wash their hands carefully and cover their mouth when sneezing and coughing. Where available, regular use of hand sanitizer is advisable. So far, attendance of pupils and staff in our schools has been unaffected and we thank parents for their support in this. We will continue to keep you updated should the situation change. If you are concerned at all, please refer to the following website; <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your continued support and for your understanding in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Highcock
Principal

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