

Dear Parents,

(Please ensure you have read previous emails from Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th.)

We are continuing to follow advice from Public Health England and Surrey County Council. There is detailed information available on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk), following the various coronavirus links. As this situation is rapidly evolving, I am slightly loathe to email specific details of the virus, as the facts may change by tomorrow. However, I feel safe to confirm that the symptoms remain as a persistent cough and a high temperature. Should you feel ill, the latest advice is to self-isolate for 7 days, with family members self-isolating for 14 days. Advice for vulnerable groups is different; please check on gov.uk.

This is our current school situation at the time of writing.

1. We are relatively unaffected, with only one member of staff off school today (for another reason). Twelve pupils are self-isolating. Many of these are sensibly operating 'with an abundance of caution' as they have vulnerable family members. Three further pupils are ill with other minor issues and three have coughs. This means that today we have 121 children in school. This is basically four classes from our usual five.
2. Absences for self-isolating will be authorised if symptoms are present, but also if there are vulnerable family members (eg. expectant mothers) or people with underlying health conditions in the family, even if no virus is currently suspected.
3. We feel very fortunate with our present situation at school. This is probably a combination of good hygiene and pot luck. Please help our good luck to continue by reading and following the advice from the regular updates on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). As an extra precaution, from tomorrow we will be limiting numbers of adults in school. This is not because families are no longer welcome, but to hopefully allow our school to continue working as normal for as long as possible. Please drop your child at the gate for Sycamore, Beech and Oak (the blue gates by the playground near each class). For Lime children, please drop at the hall door. Apple children should be dropped at the bottom of their stairs. Collection remains the same.
4. Mothers' Day singing is still scheduled for 2.40 on Friday. This is for the special group of Year 2 pupils who have been practising songs. There will be approximately 20 children in the hall with their parents, so we should be well dispersed. Oak swimming is scheduled as usual for tomorrow afternoon. The lovely Mothers' Day Shopping is also scheduled to continue through this week.
5. Each day this week we have been reducing our activities, filtering down to the essentials. It may be that by Friday we decide to operate even more in small groups within school, avoiding coming together as a whole group. We may hold class or year group assemblies, having just 30 or 40 pupils in the hall at one time. We may also modify breaktimes so that just one year group is in the playground at one time. As mentioned yesterday, rather than cancelling activities, the approach we are taking is to adapt in a safe and careful way, where possible.

6. Parents will appreciate that my time is under extreme pressure at the moment. I am attempting to maintain my usual teaching load (education remains important...) whilst receiving and responding to a huge amount of rapidly changing information and urgent questions. My in-box is ridiculous. As such, and to remain in a visible and positive leadership role for children, staff and parents, I will no longer be responding to individual emails until this crisis has passed. If parents have specific questions I am more than happy to discuss them at the playground gate each morning. This daily email communication should answer many.
7. As we have all our staff in school today, and over 80% pupils, I am not about to give an update on partial or full closure procedures and online learning. Should the situation at Farncombe deteriorate, this information will be sent out tomorrow or Friday. Know this; unless we are explicitly told to close, we will endeavour to remain as open as possible. It is impossible to give complete guarantees at this stage, but unless PHE and/or Surrey County Council tell us to stay away from the site, Ginny Burt, Jules Mason and I will be here every school day until the Easter holidays. As mentioned in yesterday's email, if staff begin to fall ill, we will begin teaching in year groups rather than class groups. Specific information on this will be sent out as and when it is relevant and necessary.

Best Regards,

Andrea Simonsson