



Friday 13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have difficult times ahead of us and I know that you are all concerned about the recent developments and government announcements on the Covid-19 virus. Your children's wellbeing has always been and will continue to be of paramount importance to us.

The government announced yesterday that it was moving from 'containment' to 'delay' phase. Part of the 'delay' procedures are **ensuring that anybody who exhibits mild Covid-19 symptoms self-isolate for a period of a least 7 days**. We currently have a small number of staff who have informed me that they are currently exhibiting these symptoms and are therefore self-isolating. I am included in this number. We have had no known cases of the Covid-19 virus within our community and we are taking precautions as outlined by the government and Public Health England in their announcement yesterday. Public Health England have advised that there is no need for us to take any action. Miss O'Connor and Mrs Clarke will be available next week during my absence and I hope to return on Wednesday 18th March, following my isolation period. If you have any concerns and wish to contact me I can be reached through email at head@montgomery-inf.essex.sch.uk, thank you.

We will continue to keep our children safe and allow them to enjoy the haven of safety that we have built as a school community. Our key priority is to continue as normal, ensuring children and staff follow diligent hygiene regimes in hand washing. This has been ongoing since the beginning of the outbreak and is now part of our daily routines. We will continue to be vigilant with cleanliness and in ensuring we are aware of the symptoms and latest expert advice. This latest advice and guidance can be found on the NHS website.

In line with the new guidance **if your child is displaying mild Covid-19 like symptoms they should remain at home for at least 7 days. These are; a continuous cough and/or high temperature**. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> .

Please inform the school as soon as possible that you are isolating your child. If, after 7 days, they are no longer displaying symptoms they can return to school. Likewise, if we are concerned about a child's health in school we will contact their parents immediately.



Attendance will no longer be monitored to the degree it previously has been, so please do not worry about your child's attendance figures during these unprecedented times.

Children who have had to self-isolate can access online education sites which are attached to this letter.

I will be in touch immediately if the situation changes and there is further information I need to share.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these difficult times.

Sue Bridgeman

Headteacher