



Dog Kennel Hill Primary School
East Dulwich
London
SE22 8AB

Telephone: 020 7274 1829
Fax: 020 7924 0735
Email: school@dkh.southwark.sch.uk
website: www.dkh.org.uk



13th March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

RE: UPDATE REGARDING THE COVID - 19 VIRUS

I am writing to update you regarding the most recent recommendations regarding the COVID-19 virus to you to help you understand the preparations we are making to support your child and you at school during this time.

Dog Kennel Hill Primary School continues to follow the advice of Public Health England (PHE) about keeping our school open and on maintaining high levels of hygiene in our schools. If anything changes in the advice given by PHE, we will inform you immediately.

We have **no** reported or confirmed cases amongst our children, staff or parents at this time.

However, we understand that things are changing rapidly and we want to help you to be prepared in the event that your child is off school or we are instructed by the government to close.

1. The situation now 13.3.2020

DKH is open and will remain open until we are instructed to close by the government. If this is the case, we will contact you in writing, by text message, email or letter.

What to do if you, your child, or someone you have recently been in contact with, is showing symptoms (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>) of Covid-19:

- If a **family member or close contact** is self-isolating **without symptoms**, your child should come to school
- If a **family member or close contact** is self-isolating **with symptoms**, please inform us immediately and your child should not come to school
- If a **family member or close contact** is **diagnosed with Covid-19**, please inform us immediately and your child should not come to school
- If a **child is showing symptoms or has been diagnosed with Covid-19**, please inform us immediately and your child should not come to school. At this point (as with any notifiable disease) parents and the school will be acting under the instructions of Public Health England.

If children or staff in school have **either** a 'high temperature' or a 'new continuous cough' the advice is to stay at home for 7 days. This is to help protect others within the school community. If symptoms are mild people should not attend GP surgeries, pharmacies or hospitals to help prevent the virus from spreading.

The most recent advice is that you do **not** need to ring NHS 111 to tell them your child is staying at home as they will not be testing people who are self-isolating with **mild** symptoms.

After 7 days, if your child feels better and no longer has a high temperature, s/he can return to school. If there have not been any signs of improvement and you have not already sought medical advice, you should contact NHS 111 online. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111.





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A cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. A persistent cough alone does not mean your child must continue to self-isolate for more than 7 days – they can return to school. Further information can be found at the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

If your child is absent, we ask that you follow normal school procedures on the first day of absence and inform the school of your child's illness.

If your child is travelling abroad at any point please check the most recent government guidelines and follow any recommendations: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>
Please inform the school if your child has travelled abroad.

2. What to do if your child is kept off school because they are showing symptoms of, or have been diagnosed with, Covid-19

It is a good idea to start thinking about what you and your child can do if they are at home for an extended period of time.

- **Taking time off work to look after your child**

Speak to your employer if you have to take time off work to look after your child. They should have a plan for staff during this time.

If you don't work and are claiming Universal Credit or another benefit and are concerned about being able to meet your job seeking commitments, contact your job centre or work coach for advice.

- **Keeping your child engaged while they are off school**

Think about stockpiling some activity supplies now: arts and crafts materials, games, jigsaws etc. These can be picked up second hand from charity shops, and some libraries have stocks to borrow. Some ideas are below:

- Top Trumps
- Guess Who
- Monopoly
- Snakes and Ladders – can be fun to make your own board
- Playing Cards
- Boggle
- Risk (game for older children)
- Hamma beads (peg boards and beads)
- Glue sticks and PVA glue
- Coloured paper
- Craft bag of supplies
- Colouring pens and pencils
- Sellotape
- Jigsaws
- Chess
- Sudoku





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- Crosswords
- Lined paper

Websites for learning

- Science: <http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/>
- Timestables Rockstars: <https://trockstars.com/>
- Reading: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>;
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/childrens-stories>

3. Accessing support from other organisations while your child is off school

- <https://southwark.foodbank.org.uk/>
- <https://southwark.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>
- <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/southwark/>
- <https://www.pecan.org.uk/southwark-foodbank>
- <https://www.cschub.co.uk/>
- <https://southwark.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/foodbank-vouchers/>

4. What to do if your child is at home because the government has instructed us to close the school

We will send home packs of work with each child and ask that you ensure they complete this work. We recommend lots of reading and educational websites such as Timestables Rockstars. We will also use the school website and dedicated year group pages to put work up on a regular basis.

Currently, all school trips will continue as planned. Staff will endeavour to take hand sanitiser with them on trips (if available) and will ensure children maintain good hand hygiene. If Public Health instruct us not to attend school trips or we do not have enough staff to manage a trip we will postpone the trip and reschedule for a later date – we will not be able to refund trip money, as the trip will already have been paid for.

Condover Hall: There are no plans to cancel this trip, if a decision is made to close schools or this trip is unable to go ahead then we would work with Condover Hall to ensure parents are reimbursed.

Please be aware that we are currently in the period of time when children are at higher risk of developing Scarlet Fever. These symptoms are very similar to COVID-19 but children typically develop a **rash** or very **flushed cheeks**. It is also very infectious. Children with Scarlet Fever may require antibiotics and you should communicate with your GP if you suspect they may have this condition, do not presume it is COVID-19.

We will continue to operate the school as normal until we are instructed otherwise and we will continue to update you with any information we are given by the Local Authority and the Department for Education. If you have any question, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Yours Sincerely

Ms L. Hillier
Head of School

