



# Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday there were some changes to the advice for education settings from Public Health England in relation to the Coronavirus outbreak. As a result of this, I thought it would be sensible for you to understand the actions we will now be taking across all schools in the Trust.

Firstly, children, staff, volunteers, etc. who display the symptoms of Coronavirus, in particular a fever and/or continuous cough, must now self-isolate for 7 days. We would ask that parents and careers notify schools in the usual manner if their child will not be attending school.

Self-isolation will apply to staff and other adults that work in our schools and therefore we may experience a higher than normal staff absence rate. I would ask that you are patient with school leaders and teachers, as they rearrange staffing to ensure schools can continue to run as normal. As a reminder, we are not permitted to close any school without the permission of Public Health England. However, if certain schools are not able to operate safely due to a lack of staff, it may be necessary to close them for this reason. We will of course inform you as soon as we are aware of this.

If your child is absent from school and they are not too unwell, they should try to continue with their learning. Reading is an excellent activity to engage in and there will be resources available from schools as well. If any or all schools are required to close, work will be provided for children to undertake at home. Individual schools will inform you about this, but most work will be posted on one of the following platforms: Google Classroom, Purple Mash, Show My Homework or the school website. Notification of any school closure will be through the normal channels and also recorded on the Trust website <https://www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/>

Secondly, we are cancelling all foreign trips that are planned to take place in the next 2 months (up to 22<sup>nd</sup> May). Foreign visits scheduled for later in the academic year will, for the moment, take place as planned. We will review this once further advice is available from Public Health England. It is unclear at this stage whether our insurers will meet the cost of any refunds due to parents and schools. However, we are contacting our insurance provider and will pass information to individual schools regarding the nature of cover once this has been clarified.

UK visits, including activities such as Duke of Edinburgh and Ten Tors, will continue as normal unless we receive advice to the contrary.

Thank you for your continued support and as the situation changes, I will write with further updates.

Kind regards

Alun Williams  
CEO

*Latest Public Health Guidance:*

- <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>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

