

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear Parents

This letter is to update you further on our work to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. It is a continually changing picture with information updated daily.

We would like to thank you for your support and understanding with changes we are making. Every action and measure taken is based on the principles of;

- Following national advice and guidance from Public Health England and The Department of Education
- Caring for all our children and their families
- Remaining fully open for as long as it is safe and viable to do so

We have established a dedicated page on our website where we have placed key information and will place copies of all letters and guides. Please regularly visit - <http://follifootandspofforth.co.uk/coronavirus-updates/> . Please also read all communications carefully.

WELCOME

VISION, MISSION AND PRINCIPLES

ADMISSIONS

INFORMATION ▾

PARENTS ▾

CURRICULUM ▾

NEWS

CONTACT

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Current Guidance

Our first priority is to follow the advice from Public Health England and The Department for Education. The government has the best overview of the situation and they are issuing regular updates to school leaders that respond to the rapidly changing situation.

At present the most current key guidance is;

If you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already.

Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, **they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.**

The symptoms are:

- **A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)**
- **A new, continuous cough**

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Further Key Information

Further to the National advice and guidance, we would like to share the following information.

Planning Ahead – Possible School Closure

Despite the challenges so far there are even more challenging times ahead and the advice to stay open may well change at some point. We may also reach the point where it is no longer safe or viable to fully open or open at all due to staff shortages. We are not there yet but staffing capacity is reduced.

We have outlined what we would do in terms of full or partial closure in our Scenario planning information for parents. Please read this information so you are aware of our plans - <http://follifootandspofforth.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Coronavirus-Scenario-Information-for-Parents.pdf>

We must not be under any illusion, however, that anything like normal service can be maintained if schools are forced to close. We will have staff affected by the virus who are unable to work from home and we cannot plan for every eventuality. If staff are fit and well they are likely to have dependents to care for. More staff may well have to self-isolate and the service we are able to offer may vary day to day.

Planning Ahead – Remaining fully or partially open

As mentioned above and in previous communications our staffing capacity is being impacted on by the self-isolation guidance. As we seek to do all we can to staff every class we will use the skills and expertise of staff from across the Federation as well as known and trusted supply teachers and if needed (and available) agency staff. To best match the skills of staff including supply staff to classes your child may be taught by a different teacher to usual from across the Federation.

Families Currently Self-Isolating

In our communication yesterday <http://follifootandspofforth.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Letter-from-Headteacher-Federation-2.1.pdf> we outlined what support we are able to offer those families currently self-isolating.

We would like to reassure parents that although children at home may not be undertaking the same work as the children in school establishing a routine and rhythm of continuing learning at home is far more important than the exact content of work undertaken. Many of the links provided allow parents to identify work appropriate to their child's age group. I appreciate this takes a little time to do and may therefore pose a challenge for parents who are also trying to work from home while they and their children are isolated.

We have clear records of which children have been isolated while school remains open and we will do all we can to support these children upon their return to ensure that they continue to progress well.

We are currently preparing packs for children to take home should a closure announcement be made or should we need to take this action for ourselves. In the event of either of these scenarios packs will be delivered or posted to those children who are already self-isolating.

We are always impressed with our children's determination, imagination and creativity. This highly unique and unprecedented situation does provide an opportunity for them to express this and explore learning opportunities with a level of independence. There will be great value in everything children do for themselves and families are able to do with their children during this time this even if it is different to the traditional curriculum.

Self Isolation & Attendance

We are grateful to everyone who is following the guidance and self-isolating as a household where symptoms are present in a household member. We are also sympathetic and understanding to families who are choosing to self-isolate as a protective measure in specific circumstances such as a pregnant member of the household. **All genuine coronavirus related absence will be authorised** and all attendance records will reflect the exceptional circumstances of this time. We are grateful to families who have informed us that they are self-isolating and we are keeping a record when we are informed including noting expected return date. Once you have informed us you are self-isolating there is no need to ring each day.

Welfare & Safeguarding

We are incredibly proud of our strong pastoral caring ethos. We are here for all families regardless of if they are self-isolating or attending school. We will continue to here for all families should we need to partially or fully close.

At present while we remain open if you have a welfare or safeguarding concern or are struggling we are here to help. Please get in touch with us via the appropriate school office. All contact is treated in confidence.

If we were to be fully closed contact can be made with class teachers via the following email accounts.

class1@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk – For children in Mrs Barnett's class.

class2a@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk - For children in Mrs Pickering's class.
(please note the slightly different name as an old group was assigned the class2 name)

class3@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk - For children in Miss Harper's class.

class1@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk – For children in Mrs Lee's and Mrs Harrisons class

class2@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk – For children in Mrs Simpsons and Mrs Jackson's class

class3@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk – For children in Miss Ward's class

class4@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk – For children in Mrs Clarke's and Mrs Bearman's class

Please note these accounts will **ONLY** become **ACTIVE in the EVENT of a school closure.**

Planning Ahead – Talking with your children

While not wishing to cause any panic or alarm we advise that families have age appropriate conversations with their children about how they can help each other if someone in the family is ill and what they would do in an emergency if an adult was taken ill. Even the youngest children can be very resilient and composed in difficult situations when they have basic knowledge such as how to ring 999 or how to contact a neighbour. Follow the link for more information on how you might talk to your children about this -

<https://www.how2become.com/blog/safety-kids-call-999-emergency/>



Safety for Kids – No Age is too Young!

Wellbeing

During this time, it is also important that we all think about our own and each other's wellbeing. There are some things that we can all do that will help.

1. Take a break from the news – limit how much you read about COVID -19
2. Stay connected - talk with people you trust about any concerns you have and how you are feeling
3. Keep healthy - exercise, get fresh air, eat well and get plenty of sleep.
4. Be kind– look for ways you might be able to help others in our community.

Below are some links and suggestions of sources of help and advice for children and their families.

Child line Calm Zone - More than just a phone number, calm zone provides tips and techniques, ideas and inspiration which, can help you feel more in control. All these resources can be accessed in your own time, at your own pace!

There are lots of way to feel calmer. It's about finding what works for you. Try some of our breathing exercises, activities, games and videos to help let go of stress. Please visit <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Compass Buzz

<https://www.compass-uk.org/help-and-support/children/>

Compass

Search GO QUICK ESCAPE

Should you need urgent health advice please contact your GP or call NHS 111. In an emergency please visit A&E or call 999

HOME > HELP & SUPPORT > CHILDREN

HELP FOR CHILDREN

I am aged under 11 years

CHILDREN - EMOTIONS

Hygiene

We continue to encourage the children in school to wash their hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water. Also, to reduce the spread of germs, we will continue to encourage children when they cough or sneeze, to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue, or their sleeve (not their hands) if they don't have a tissue, and throw the tissue away immediately.

More info and resources on hygiene can be found at <http://follifootandspofforth.co.uk/coronavirus-updates/>

Preventing the Spread – Handwashing advice

The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds (the time taken to sing Happy Birthday twice), with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

Watch this short NHS film for guidance:

<https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools>

At school children, staff and visitors are washing their hands;

- on arrival at school
- after using the toilet
- after breaks and sporting activities
- before food preparation
- before eating any food, including snacks
- before leaving school

And Finally....

This is a time of national crisis but by working together we can, and will, get through this. But we need your support and I would ask you to help us by:

- Encouraging your child to follow the guidance re hand and nose hygiene
- Not sending your child to school if they have a fever or persistent cough
- Supporting the whole staff team as we make and implement difficult decisions in challenging times
- Reading carefully and following all the advice that comes home from school
- Only contact the school office when absolutely necessary
- Address all non-urgent issues via email to either admin@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk or admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk.
- Showing kindness and respect to our school staff as they work under difficult conditions to support our children

I very much recognise that these are exceptional times and I would like to thank you for your support, cooperation and understanding.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Griffiths Headteacher.