



The Bridge Short Stay School
Appleton Drive | Ellesmere Port,
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Dear Parent/Carer

The current situation and guidelines around the national situation with Coronavirus continues to develop and change at a rapid pace. As a school we continue to be guided by and strictly follow the expert advice that we are receiving from Public Health England, I will continue to communicate this advice with you at the earliest opportunity.

This afternoon the Prime Minister has given a statement outlining increased control measures to delay the spread of Coronavirus. While the possibility of schools closures were mentioned, this is not the current advice and all schools are being directed by central government to remain open unless informed otherwise by Public Health England. We will continue to communicate directly with you as parents if and when that situation changes.

New measures announced from today however state that students should follow the self-isolation guidance (available 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>) **for a period of 14 days** (increased from the previous 7 days) if they, or anyone else living in their household develops either a new, persistent cough or a fever.

If your child has to self-isolate under these circumstances please communicate with us in the normal way so that we know the reasons for absence, this will not affect their absence record or result in any form of penalty for parents. It is important however as part of our collective endeavours as a community, that students who meet this criteria do take seriously their responsibility to self-isolate and not spend time in the community. Taking this action is a necessary step as part of the government strategy, but is potentially difficult for anyone. If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing during a period of self-isolation please get in touch so that we can signpost you towards support that may be available.

As a parent of young children myself, I appreciate the anxiety that the current situation may be causing you, particularly if your child has other health conditions that may make them more vulnerable to infection. With that in mind I'd like to take this opportunity to again reassure you that we are consistently and strictly following the public health guidance that we receive and will continue to do so, in the best interests of all our community.

I will be in touch further as and when new information is available.

Best Wishes

Andrew Stewart

Head Teacher



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