

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at the Willows we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions continue to run as normal, including the **KS1 production, RSP and other after school clubs**
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
 - a **new, continuous cough and/or**
 - a **high temperature**
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by phoning or emailing the school office
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- We continue to encourage all members of our school community to wash their hands regularly; on entry to school, after breaks, before meals and after visiting the bathroom
- Tissues and soap are available in every classroom
- We are responding to children's questions with age appropriate answers, in a low key and calm manner
- The school is being thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis with special attention paid to high used areas e.g door handles, bathrooms etc...

What we need you to do

- If you've recently **changed your contact details**, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email/telephone
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- Check that your child has access to the following from home (we will send out login details to remind you of them this week), and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point)
 - Bug Club (Reception – Year 6)
 - Mathletics (Year 1 – Year 6)
 - Numbots (Year 1 – Year 6)
 - TTRS (Year 2 – Year 6)

- SPAG.com (Year 5 & 6)
- the school website / class pages

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we'll:

- send emails, make an announcement on the school website, post on the school's Twitter account and on the PTA Facebook account
- use the same means of communication for all other announcements e.g how to access learning or arrangements for when the school will re-open

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. **There are currently no plans to close.**

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Warren