

# King Athelstan Primary School

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Headteacher: Emily Newton

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Update - COVID-19

Thank you for your emails and calls - we are unable to respond to everyone individually and therefore we are sending a further update, which should answer the majority of questions.

Everything in school is very calm and it is very much business as usual. We have a number of children off with flu-like symptoms. This morning we were given advice from School Health that siblings/children of those with symptoms should be off school as a precaution. However we have subsequently been given advice by Public Health and Achieving for Children (at RBK) that it is **only the person with symptoms who should self-isolate** and that children/siblings of those with symptoms should be in school as usual. **We therefore expect all those without symptoms to return to school tomorrow.**

We currently have no staff self-isolating.

Advice from Public Health Kingston is:

*Anyone who shows certain symptoms is being asked to self-isolate for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means we want people to stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.*

**Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:**

- a high temperature (37.8 degrees Celsius and above)
- a new, continuous cough

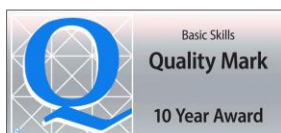
*Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home. People who are self-isolating with mild symptoms do not need to be tested for COVID-19.*

**Urgent advice: use the [NHS 111 online coronavirus service](#) if:**

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days

**Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.**

Please regularly check the NHS website for further updates and advice: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus).



We are not able to provide work to complete at home for individual cases; however, there is plenty of home learning, including KIRFs and Thinker's Project grids on the Curriculum pages of our school website: <http://www.kingathelstan.kingston.sch.uk/curriculum/>

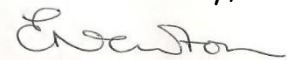
We wanted to reassure you that we have detailed plans and systems in place in the event that we are directed by the Government or Public Health to close in the future. In this circumstance, we will provide access to further home learning for all children.

We are contacting you separately about trips/events for specific classes. In general, we are now cancelling/postponing those using public transport, but will review each trip on a case-by-case basis, and as more guidance becomes available.

It is important that we have a calm and measured approach - a proportionate response. We do not want to raise alarm amongst the children and we need to make sure the messages that we give to them are age appropriate. They are being brilliant in school at washing their hands and they are happily continuing their classroom learning as usual.

Thank you for keeping us informed about your child's health and for your continuing support. Please note, there is no reason to self-isolate your child unless they have the symptoms described by Public Health Kingston in the box above. We will continue to update you regularly.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Newton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Emily Newton  
Headteacher