**FURTHER UPDATE 18.00 FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**

**Please note that our information management system is taking a number of hours to send. This is beyond our control.**

16th 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.

**Following the government press conference this evening, the advice is that anyone who lives with someone who has a cough or a temperature should stay home for 14 days.**

Symptoms that mean you should self-isolate are:

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

Advice from Public Health Kingston advice is:

*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***](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) ***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 trips, but will review each one 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 unless someone in your household has the symptoms described by Public Health Kingston in the box above. We will continue to update you regularly.

Yours faithfully,

Emily Newton

Headteacher