



# Wallace Fields Infant School & Nursery

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*"High achievement and success with a smile."*



17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear WFIS & Nursery Parents & Carers

## Coronavirus Update – Tuesday 17th March 2020

With the rapidly changing advice regarding Coronavirus, we thought it was worth writing to prepare you for any changes the school may have to consider in the coming days and weeks. **Please ensure that you read to the end of this lengthy communication and check you can access the *Home Learning Area* for your child's year group below.**

### Latest guidance

We are regularly receiving updates from both the Local Authority and Public Health England. Schools remain open but we are subject to new guidance along with the announcements made by the Prime Minister at a press conference yesterday. The link to this updated guidance is below and there are some significant changes. If we get any further updates we will let you know.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

The main messages are:

- Members of staff or children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature (37.8°C and above) to avoid spreading infection to others for a period of 7 days. All other members of the household should stay at home for 14 days even if they do not have symptoms.
- If staff or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home immediately and the isolation advice above would apply for them and the whole household.
- Schools will need to clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using standard cleaning products.
- Schools will need to supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues.
- Schools will, unless directly advised to close by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team, remain open.

### Reporting absence

One way that parents could help us is by keeping us up to date when you know your child is going to be absent from school. If we don't hear from you, then we need to ring you to confirm why your

child is not in school and this is taking up a lot of time at the moment. It would really help us if you could follow the arrangements set out below for notifying your child's absence.

- 1) If your child is ill (but not displaying symptoms of the coronavirus) please ring the school each day of their absence as is normal practice.
- 2) If your child has a new, continuous cough or has a high temperature and they need to stay at home, please email (or ring if necessary) the School Office (office@wallace-fields-infant.surrey.sch.uk) to explain what their symptoms are and that they will be staying at home for the next fourteen days. This will include any siblings living within the household. You will then not need to contact the school again until the fourteen days have expired. These absences will of course be authorised. The health of our pupils and staff is our number one priority and it is crucial that families and schools do all we can to protect each other and prevent transmission to others.

### Minimizing risks in school

Rest assured we are taking a number of measures within school to minimize risk. These include:

- Reminding the children to wash their hands regularly and supervising them doing so.
- Ensuring that tissues are available in every classroom and bins are being emptied more regularly.
- Increasing cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school at several points over the school day.
- Minimising the number of visitors into school.
- Postponement of meetings with groups of parents, i.e. class assemblies.
- Reducing whole school assemblies and doing them in year groups instead.
- Cancelling external visits where appropriate.

### School closure

Despite the announcement that schools will remain open for the time being, we are preparing as best we can for a possible national closure. We have shared our current and ever changing action plan with all staff and we will remain open until advised to close. However, there is a possibility that if we reach a critical number of absent staff members we may need to make the difficult decision to reallocate staff around the school, combine classes or to close the school and nursery partially or fully, depending on the circumstances. If this is the case we will communicate this to you as soon as is reasonably possible, so please be alert for email messages, website updates and social media communications. **Please ensure we have your most up to date contact details.**

### Home learning

We have sent home today for each child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, an exercise book as part of our contingency plans to provide learning for the children in the event of a forced closure. This will be a mixture of paper-based resources to take home on the day of closure, followed by online resources including a weekly grid of tasks similar to the Book of Brilliance, Purple Mash online tasks and access to an e-book service for colour-banded books for daily reading.

Learning resources will be added to a shared area for each year group on a regular basis. **We request that you click on these links today to ensure that you can access them if needed.**

**Year Reception Parents** - please [click here](#) to access the *Year R Home Learning Area*

**Year 1 Parents** - please [click here](#) to access the *Year 1 Home Learning Area*

**Year 2 Parents** – please [click here](#) to access the *Year 2 Home Learning Area*

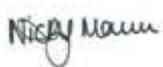
Can we please remind parents that any files such as video clips of staff giving a teaching input or reading a story which are shared in these learning areas are confidential and for your own private use and should not be shared on social media or streaming platforms. If there are families that are unable to access these online resources by smartphone, iPad or laptop, please let the School Office know so that we can make alternative arrangements for you. In the event of a closure we will provide further information about remote learning – at this stage, please simply check you can access the online area. We will also send out separate information for our Nursery parents.

### **Well-being and contacting the school**

Finally, we are sure you appreciate the situation is escalating rapidly and we are doing our utmost to provide a calm environment which is as normal as possible for the children at this unprecedented time. If you have any questions, please do contact the school office ([office@wallace-fields-infant.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@wallace-fields-infant.surrey.sch.uk)) and they will ensure you get a response from the appropriate member of staff. Be assured that if there is something we all need to know - or if there is something that potentially increases the risk for you or your child - we will share that information as soon as possible and act upon it.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the staff team during this time - it is hugely appreciated. Whatever challenges we may face in the next week or so, we feel confident that we will meet these together.

Yours sincerely

**Nicky Mann**

**Jamie Hallums**

**Co Headteachers**