

13th March, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID19) Parent Update

Dear Parent,

As I am sure you are aware the incidence of novel Coronavirus (COVID19) in the UK has significantly increased over the past week and that the Government confirmed yesterday afternoon that the country is moving to the 'delay' phase of infection control.

The Tarka Learning Partnership Head Teachers and I are continuing to assess the level of risk and alter action plans to review at every stage the wellbeing of pupils and staff. Schools are required to work under the government's guidance. We continue, as responsible schools, to further each child's learning in an atmosphere of support and safety.

I can confirm that there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection at any Tarka Learning Partnership schools.

I have heard it stated many times that the COVID19 infection adversely affects the elderly and statements such as this often overlook both families who have an infirm parent or a child who may have short or long term health conditions. It is this group of children that we must take extra care of and therefore self-isolation for those with symptoms is critical. I ask that parents isolate children at home (guidance below) if they have some or all of the following symptoms: -

- a new, continuous cough
- difficulty in breathing
- fever

Head Teachers reserve the right to insist on home isolation if children display the above symptoms and will monitor the length of a child's absence to ensure it meets the guidelines below. Each school will examine future school trips in this country and community gatherings such as parent evenings, deciding locally as to the future of the event.

Last week I requested that each family travelling abroad this Easter or at any time before the summer term informs their child's school by **Friday 20th March** using the slip provided below. I attach a further copy as a reminder. *Please take no further action if you have filled in this form and returned to the school.* Students who have travelled abroad to category one areas must self-isolate before returning to school. I attach guidance for self-isolation. Head Teachers reserve the right to insist on self-isolation to prevent further infection.

The Government has been assessing future possible actions and may consider closure of schools. Over the past month schools in the partnership have created a plan working within government guidance to plan for such a closure. It is essential that we take proactive steps to minimise anxiety and support families if this decision is made.

I would ask that each family, if you haven't already, make a contingency plan to support your child should the school close. If schools close, they may be shut for some time. Any decision about closure will be taken by the Head Teacher, the Chair of Governors and myself following guidance by Public Health England. **A school may close overnight, so please keep a look out on our website and facebook page.**

Each Tarka Learning Partnership school has a detailed Emergency plan for school closure and if the school closes school leaders will keep in touch with you and your family through the school's communication systems to provide regular updates, including arrangements for re-opening.



The Tarka Learning Partnership schools are committed to supporting our young people through this crisis and recognise the pressure this is placing on young people, parents and staff. I want to take this opportunity to thank parents for your support and I know you will continue to communicate with us. I will keep you updated with any further changes to our preparations or in response to advice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Cotton".

Andy Cotton

CEO
Tarka Learning Partnership

Overseas travel during the Coronavirus Outbreak Easter Holidays 2020

Student/Pupil name: _____

anticipate travelling to _____ (town/city/country) during the Easter holidays.

Parent/carer signature: _____

Name: _____ (Print)

Please return by **20th March 2020 if you are travelling overseas**

Guidance on self-isolation

What does self-isolating mean?

If you have been told to self-isolate, you need to stay indoors and avoid contact with other people for 14 days.

It is important to follow the advice for the whole period, even if you do not have any symptoms.

Do

- stay at home
- separate yourself from other people – for example, try not to be in the same room as other people at the same time
- only allow people who live with you to stay
- stay in a well-ventilated room with a window that can be opened
- ask friends, family members or delivery services to carry out errands for you, such as getting groceries, medicines or other shopping
- make sure you tell delivery drivers to leave items outside for collection if you order online
- clean toilets and bathrooms regularly
- think about a bathroom rota if a separate bathroom is not available, with the isolated person using the facilities last, before thoroughly cleaning the bathroom themselves
- use separate towels from anyone else in the household
- wash crockery and utensils thoroughly with soap and water; dishwashers may be used to clean crockery and cutlery
- stay away from your pets – if unavoidable, wash your hands before and after contact

Don't

- do not invite visitors to your home or allow visitors to enter
- do not go to work, school or public areas
- do not use public transport like buses, trains, tubes or taxis
- do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding or other items with other people in your home