

## Inspired Learning Group of Independent School & Nurseries

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Following the government announcement yesterday evening regarding Covid-19, we wish to update families. You will no doubt be following the UK Government's advice concerning the decision to keep the school open during this 'delay phase' as announced by our Prime Minister last Friday.

The advice from government is that should any member of a family show symptoms of coughing or fever, the entire family should self-isolate for 14 days. A small number of pupils and staff have chosen to do this, for precautionary reasons. However, the great majority are in school and morale is high. We continue to offer the full academic curriculum and the pupils are enjoying their learning. At the time of writing, and to the best of our knowledge, we have no cases of the virus in the school community across our 14 sites.

Hand sanitisers are provided throughout the school and nursery and are continually replenished. Pupils and staff are using them continuously throughout the day to ensure that we all maintain good standards of hygiene. Prior to entering eating, every pupil is required to use a sanitiser to sterilise their hands. The doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones are being cleaned three a day and the school is clinically being cleaned every day.

The government advice is that schools should remain open whilst it is safe to do so and we can provide appropriate staff supervision. It is the intention of ILG Schools and Nurseries to follow that guidance. We will monitor the situation closely and keep up to date with the latest advice from Public Health England, which we will then share with you. We have detailed plans in place to cover any future eventuality, including the conversion of ILG school and nurseries into a centre of remote learning. At the appropriate time we will share those detailed plans with you.

We are now in a phase where full household isolation is required in the event of any member of the family developing a new continuous cough or temperature of 37.8°C or above. Please keep all siblings at home for 14 days if any member of the household displays these symptoms, whilst also self-isolating the rest of your household.

Any families already self-isolating their child for the above symptoms for 7 days must now self-isolate the entire family for 14 days. Pupils who are self-isolating are being set work by their teachers via email which should be completed, dependant upon the health of the pupil. Obviously, if your child does fall ill during this period, the priority would be for them to recover fully before they complete any further tasks.

The school and nursery will remain open for all other children, but we are taking precautions to carry out 'social distancing' as follows:

- All fixtures have been cancelled until the end of term
- All educational visits have been cancelled until the end of term
- We are reviewing trips for next term and beyond, and will communicate key decisions as soon as we are able
- Parent Consultation Evenings have been cancelled with telephone conversations to follow

As the situation evolves, and in the event of school and nursery closure, I want to assure you that we have been working hard to minimise disruption to your child's education. We will be able to maintain a continued provision of education for your child by remote communication during any closure period. We will rely on technological solutions to set work, receive it back from pupils and give regular feedback. In the event of a closure, the close support of parents will be invaluable in helping to maximise the benefits of this system of work in highly challenging circumstances. Your son/daughter will need access to the internet at home via a laptop/tablet/desktop on which they are able to use Word and access online learning platforms. Further information will be shared at the end of this week. Some teachers may wish to video call pupils, via Zoom, so it would be sensible for pupils to have access to a device with a built-in camera and microphone. A separate communication will be sent out, outlining out detailed remote learning timetable with resources and information in the event of school closure.

The current situation is a very difficult one for pupils and families to deal with from a pastoral point of view and we are keen that every member of our community should feel supported. To this end, we would encourage regular email or telephone contact to ensure this is the case.

However, we have become aware that, often via WhatsApp groups or other social media platforms, inaccurate information is being shared. Please can we remind you of the need for caution when posting anything on social media to avoid unnecessary anxiety and upset in these unprecedented times. Please do contact the school if you have any concerns about any information that you receive and I would be more than happy for you to fact check any information.

The impact of this current situation on the students sitting 11+ is yet not known at this point in time as we have not received any further information from the Government. Until any changes are announced, pupils who are to sit these exams from this September onwards must keep working towards their development and learning.

The Buxlow Senior Leadership Team meet every morning to review the ongoing situation and we will continue to keep you updated with any further developments. We would also, of course, ask parents to keep us informed of any significant developments in their family health that may impact the school community.

A further thank you for all the supportive messages and help that we have been receiving during this very difficult time. We are having to juggle doing the best we can for the pupils, staff and you. We will continue to prioritise the pupils and their education, but as you can imagine the staff are working under increasingly difficult conditions trying to teach in the school and nursery as usual and provide work and support for pupils who are isolated at home but not ill. This has meant that with effect from tomorrow for the rest of the term we have made the decision to cancel after school co-curricular clubs for Reception-Y6 students to allow teaching staff to spend some extra time preparing remote work for pupils at home. We will then consider what is best going forward and let you all know in a more measured manner. Nurseries & After School Care will be operating as normal as those are not staffed

by teachers. I appreciate that this may cause childcare issues for some of you, so you have the following options:

- Collect your child at the end of school/nursery as would be normal on a day when they do not have a co-curricular club. This is our greatly preferred option and I would be very grateful if you could manage this.
- Collect your child at the end of the co-curricular club time from the after-school care, if you cannot collect at the end of school/nursery. These pupils will be supervised by a member of staff to keep them safe.

You do not need to inform us which option you are choosing. If you do not collect your child at the end of the normal school day, we will supervise your child until the end of the co-curricular session. Thank you for your calm co-operation during these uncertain times.

Regards,

Mr May  
Headteacher