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Dear Parents/Carers

We continue to have no reported cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) from within our school community. Confirmed cases in Devon continue to be low. However, understandably we are seeing an increase in staff and student absence due to a high degree of caution which we are monitoring carefully.

It is important you are aware of the latest advice which was updated by the Government on 16.03.20.

- If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for **14 days** will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for **7** days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original **14 day** isolation period.
- It is very important that individuals with symptoms that may be due to coronavirus and their household members stay at home. Staying at home will help control the spread of the virus to friends, the wider community, and particularly the most vulnerable

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- a high temperature of 37.8°C (100°F) or more

Please read carefully and follow the stay at home guidance below should you and your family need to self-isolate.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

As well as the self-isolation guidance above, there are extra precautions recommended for individuals with health vulnerabilities. If you do need to withdraw your child from school for the isolation period due to underlying health conditions of either the child or immediate family members they live with then this will be an authorised absence.

We meet daily as a Senior Leadership Team to ensure we review our response and our actions are in line with Government guidance. Due to staffing changes as a result of absences, on





some days we may not be able to provide the timetabled curriculum, Our priority is to keep children safe, happy and in school for as long as possible. We are sure you understand this.

- Following the Government's late announcement yesterday for people to avoid unnecessary social contact and gatherings we have made the very difficult decision to postpone all work experience placements from tomorrow.
- We are postponing as many meetings as possible, including Annual Reviews which will be rearranged after Easter. This is to reduce the number of visitors to the school and increase staff available to be with our students.
- We are postponing the Lower School High Tea on Thursday 26th March.

To help our students understand some of the discussions and news reports and to help ease some of the anxieties they may be having, they have all recently accessed a social story about feeling unwell. Tutors have adapted it where necessary. There is also now a 'communicate in print' social story available specifically related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) which you can share with your child if you wish to. This has been shared amongst our SENTient schools. These can be accessed here:

<http://www.lampard.devon.sch.uk/news/?pid=17&nid=3>

We are currently in the process of updating our home learning page on our website which gives a range of online home learning activities should your child begin to feel well yet is still within the 14 days self-isolation stage. This page can be found here:

<http://www.lampard.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning&pid=50>.

Please regularly check on the school website where we will be posting regular updates. If the school closes, it will be either because we are directed to by the Government or the Local Authority or because we simply cannot operate safely; this decision will not be taken lightly.

We have put together a sheet with information you may find useful on different aspects of online safety, safeguarding and family support services. This includes key contact numbers if you are worried about a child or young person as well as links to the Devon Pinpoint database which has details of services in the local area such as short breaks, childcare and food banks. The sheet can be accessed from our website.

Yours faithfully

Sam Barham
Headteacher

