

# Fox Wood School

Woolston Learning Village, Holes Lane, Woolston  
Warrington, WA1 4LS

01925 811534  
FoxWood\_School@warrington.gov.uk  
www.foxwoodschoo.org.uk



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Dear Parents and Carers

As you are no doubt aware, the Government have issued further advice and guidance and have now moved the country to the Delay Stage of the Coronavirus Pandemic. That means schools and colleges should continue to stay open and that children and young people should continue to attend wherever possible.

The new guidance states that **anyone who has a new and persistent cough or a temperature (37.5 and above) should self-isolate for 7 days. We therefore request that should your child develop these symptoms you keep them absent from school for this period.**

Current advice remains in place: no education setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools and colleges on both children and young people's education and on the workforce will be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to schools and colleges will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children and adolescents are a lower risk group. Having said that I am, of course, acutely aware that many of our pupils are at increased risk due to complex health needs. As a member of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) I have contributed to a letter to Public Health England to ask for specialist consideration, and advice, to be given to the special school population as a distinct group. This letter was acknowledged by Professor Bennett last Thursday and we await a response from her once she has received expert advice from the National Incident Control Centre (NICC.)

Whilst we have been planning for this situation for some time, we know that this will cause some turbulence in school. This is because we may now have to manage unprecedented levels of staff and children's absence.  
How can you help?

- **If you suspect your son or daughter has any symptoms of coronavirus (a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature (37.5 degrees or higher), please do not send them into school**

Headteacher: Miss Lucinda Duffy NPQH, BA.Ed QTS

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Lianne Buchanan BA (Hons), QTS, MA SEN



- **Please let us know as soon as possible if your son or daughter is either ill or is self-isolating because of coronavirus symptoms. We will assume that your son or daughter will be off for at least 7 days from when you contact us and will plan class sizes and groups accordingly.**

We are continuing to take a number of measures to support with the 'delay' phase. Part of this has been reviewing all non-essential events, deciding whether or not these should continue as planned or be postponed until later in the year as a precautionary measure and so that we can focus our resources on the school day only. We will only cancel these events where we feel it is in the best interests of everyone, looking at the bigger picture.

Children continue to wash their hands more regularly and staff have spent time demonstrating to the children how to do this, following the Public Health guidelines. We have a lot of visitors into school, many of whom provide very important services for our children. However, we will be minimising non-essential meetings and visitors to school.

We will issue further guidance on a regular basis. This will appear via letters, the school website and our Social Media accounts (Fantastic Fox Wood). It is important that there is clear communication between home and school and any confirmed information relating to cases within families is also shared to help support our management of this changing situation. Maintaining the education provision for our children and young people is important - however our priority is rightly around the health and well-being of all of our children and young people, our Fox Wood families, and our staff.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support regarding this matter over the coming weeks. These are unprecedented times for us all. We are confident that if we all pull together; we will be able to manage it effectively.

Yours Faithfully



**Lucinda Duffy**  
**Headteacher**