



17<sup>th</sup> March 2020,

Re: Coronavirus/ COVID-19

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at Chantry we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and East Sussex County Council.

What's the current situation?

- The school remains open – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions continue to run as normal
- If you, your child or anyone you live with has the following symptoms you must follow [guidance to stay at home](#) (which is now 14 days):
  - A new, continuous cough and/or
  - A fever of 37.8C or higher
- If your child is unwell or is self-isolating, report this as you would normally by calling the school office.
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- If children or staff present with the above symptoms during the school day they will be asked to return home and self-isolate
- Our cleaning schedule has been increased with additional attention to frequently used items such as door handles, light switches and taps etc.
- Increased frequency in handwashing for 20 seconds (on arrival at school, before and after breaks and PE and lunch, before home time)
- Teachers are talking with the children about the virus, hygiene and to allay any fears they may have. We are also talking about the mental health impacts and have also added a video to our Facebook page for your use and information.
- We have decided to cancel assembly for the foreseeable future and have made the difficult decision to postpone our Year 3 and 4 Production that was due to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April. We hope to be able to schedule it for later in the academic year.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details (email or telephone), please inform the school office as soon as possible via our main school email: [school@chantry.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:school@chantry.e-sussex.sch.uk)
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety



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- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- Check that your child has access to our online learning providers (Mathletics, TT Rockstars or Numbots, Spellzone and Purple Mash) from home, and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point)

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we'll:

- Send a parentmail to the email address we have for you and post it on our Facebook page. We will also advise the local authority who will advertise it via local radio stations and the East Sussex County Council website <https://apps.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/schoolsearch/8452095.aspx> where you can register for an email should we have to close.
- When we re-open the same communication methods will be used
- Our teachers are currently preparing home learning packs for all children should we have to close. These will be sent home with children. They will include a mix of online and off-line learning.
- Please check you have the details of your class email page should you need to contact your class teacher. All email addresses are the class name followed by @chantry.e-sussex.sch.uk, for example Year 4 is year4@chantry.e-sussex.sch.uk

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

If you have any questions.

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

*Becky Reed*

Becky Reed  
Headteacher



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