

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to 'delay' with the aim of delaying the spread of the virus. We are getting in touch to let you know what we are 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 would like to reassure you that at Timu we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Kent Local Authority.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given
- All usual day to day teaching activities will continue as normal
- Breakfast and after school club remains running as usual
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**. This is the updated advice from the Government today.
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by calling the school Office.

Forthcoming events and trips

These forthcoming trips and events have been postponed:

- PTFA Mother's Day teas
- PTFA quiz night (Iwade)
- Waterstones visit for attendance and AR winners
- Spring concerts will be postponed until the summer
- Able writers day (for a group of year 3 and 4 children)
- Kent Fire and Rescue talks (Iwade)
- NSPCC workshops and assemblies
- Book fair

What we are doing to protect children and staff

- From tomorrow, community assemblies will be cancelled and will be class assemblies instead
- Continued heightened hand washing in class
- Additional cleaning in school
- Visitors are asked to use hand sanitiser before entering the school
- If a child or member of staff starts to feel unwell whilst on the premises, we will follow the Government guidance and contact the parent of the child
- Sending out the Government guidance to parents as we receive it

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible via email
- 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

- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)

Sporting events

Sporting events will continue. However, from Government updates this may change at short notice.

Parents consultations and school trips

At present, parent consultations will be going ahead and more information will follow. If we are given guidance to cancel these, you will still receive your written report and we will investigate alternatives.

Where we are planning external school trips, these will be considered alongside the latest advice from the Government. If we have to postpone any trips, these will be rescheduled where possible for later in the year as these are a valuable part of your child's curriculum.

What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will :

- Notify you via the School Gateway and on our school Facebook page
- Once we have a date to re-open we will notify you via School Gateway and on our school Facebook page
- We have added a page to our Trust website www.timuacademytrust.org.uk and will be adding resources and links for you to support your child. Additionally, we will print some resources as a pack and send these home to you with your child.

Beyond this week, we are unable to predict with any certainty, so therefore we will stay in regular contact as things change. Please keep in mind that we are 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 are 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.