

Dear parents / guardians and staff

Re: COVID-19 health advice

We are continuing to keep you updated on the government's response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Public Health England advises that the risk to individuals in the UK remains low.

You may be aware there has recently been a case of COVID 19 in a staff member at Willow Bank Infant School (further details here: <https://news.wokingham.gov.uk/coronavirus/>) and we understand that this may cause concern.

We would like to reassure you that we are following advice from Public Health England about actions to take in the school:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19#tools-for-use-in-childcare-and-educational-settings>

Following discussion with Wokingham Borough Council, Willow Bank Junior School and Aldryngton Primary School have also decided to close for some time next week in order to carry out deep cleans. This are purely precautionary measures and we will continue to work with these and other schools during this difficult time. There is no indication that either site poses any risk to pupils or staff but Head Teachers must satisfy themselves and their school's communities that they are doing everything possible to keep children safe.

We will continue to operate as normal and we take any reports of illness or travel to and from affected areas very seriously and will make decisions based on expert advice to keep our pupils and staff safe. If the situation changes we will send out further updates.

You can check the NHS websites for the latest health advice:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and the Public Health England website for further details: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

There are simple things you can do to help stop viruses like coronavirus spreading:

Do:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Don't:

- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Where to find the latest information

Public Health England blog: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Guidance for educational settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>