



# Fleet Primary School

Fleet Road Hampstead London NW3 2QT

Tel: 020 7485 2028

E-mail: [admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Don McGibbon



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## Coronavirus Update – new information – 17<sup>th</sup> March

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Dear Parents and Carers,

With the rapidly changing advice regarding Coronavirus, I thought it was worth writing again to prepare you for any changes the school may have to consider in the coming days and weeks. Please ensure that you read to the end of this lengthy communication.

As I'm sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. Our first priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in our school. Now more than ever, this remains our primary focus. This is an entirely unprecedented situation and we are following official advice from the government and the NHS. This advice is being added to every day and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published. This official advice will underpin all the actions we take.

The updated government advice can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#ending-isolation>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

The government advice yesterday included a greater emphasis on self-isolation. The symptoms we are told to look out for are a new continuous cough and/or high temperature. **If a child or adult shows these symptoms the advice is that self-isolation should then follow for a period of a full week for the person experiencing the symptoms. Other people in the household should self isolate for 14 days. This seems counterintuitive, the person with the symptoms self-isolating for less time than the rest of the house but it is to do with the incubation period and how long someone could be infected but not show symptoms.** The guidance is quite complicated and you may find the section on ending isolation more straightforward. Click here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#ending-isolation>

Although it is each parent or carer's decision whether or not to self-isolate or isolate their children, I would strongly urge you to follow the guidelines. This will obviously affect children, parents and staff and therefore will impact on the day-to-day running of the school. If numbers drop of children/staff the following actions may be taken: combining classes with shared staff/dividing classes between teachers

Other measures we will be putting into place from tomorrow include asking all adults to stay out of the school building as much as possible. I am requesting that all parents try to arrive at 3.30pm not significantly before. After drop off and pick up, please leave the school site promptly. We will, as yesterday, be lining classes up in the playground at the end of the day to be collected for years 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. This is an attempt to avoid large congregations in the covered area. We are seeking to avoid the school community coming together in large numbers and at peak times.

### Reminder of the additional steps already being taken in school sent home in yesterday's communication:

- Children and adults will continue to wash their hands with soap throughout the day. Official visitors will continue to be provided with hand sanitizer when they come for meetings at school.
- Our daily school assemblies and Friday class assemblies are cancelled. Apologies to year 2 and year 1 families whose class assemblies would have been this week and next – we are going to let the children do their performance and film them and then share the film with you (they are quite excited to be making a film – this of course is dependent on enough of the children being in to do it). We are trying

to minimise situations where lots of children would be very close to each other along with a number of adults from outside school all in the close confines of the hall.

- Class teas and International Evening will be cancelled for the time being
- School trips and visits that involve the use of public transport will also be stopped for the time being. We will continue to go on trips that are local and where we walk – such as to the heath.
- Swimming will stop for the time being - we have been in contact with Kentish Town pool to ensure that their cleaning regime is rigorous and the pool they use is not open to the public. However, the changing area the children use does not have handwashing facilities. The only way for the children to wash hands before and after swimming would be to go into the public changing rooms. Given this we have decided to stop swimming at this time. Year 5 and Year 4 children will do a PE session here in school instead when they would be going swimming.

Please use the school admin email or phone number to communicate with us, rather than coming into school unless you absolutely need to. Should you not get a quick response, please understand that it will be because we are busy supporting children and/or staff. I know this all sounds very anti-social but these are hopefully short-term measures that will enable us all to stay fit for work and school, for as long as possible. For the moment, we are allowing visiting professionals, music teachers and club leaders to continue to come into school but we will continue to review the situation – most of the planned professionals coming in have already cancelled – this situation is fast changing.

Despite the government's announcement that schools will remain open for the time being, we are doing what we must, including preparing for a national closure. As a staff, we continue to plan for this eventuality. This includes planning for how and when we will communicate with parents and vice versa, health and safety considerations and what action would be taken should staff fall ill.

We are currently compiling 'Learning at home' sheets that will be shared with all children via our school website and on ParentHub in the event that we close. This may include a mix of activities, website links, spellings, phonics games and some suggested non-screen activities that the children can try.

Many members of the staff team have young families or dependants so we will do our very best to balance supporting our school community as well as our own families. With this in mind, it is important that you make us aware if your child will not have access to a device to view any work we might plan to put up. Please make sure we have your correct phone number and ensure you are checking your ParentHub app regularly. We will endeavour to use ParentHub for only essential communication, so when you get an alert, please read the messages carefully.

Please send any amendments to your contact details to: [admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk) Finally, please can I ask you to speak to us directly if you are worried or concerned or have any further questions. Be assured that if there is something we all need to know - or if there is something that potentially increases the risk for you or your child - we will share that information ASAP and act upon it.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the staff team during this time, it is hugely appreciated. Whatever challenges we may face in the next weeks and months, I feel confident that we will meet these together. Wishing you and your families all the very best.

Yours Sincerely,



Don McGibbon  
Headteacher