



13th March 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to you in response to the growing number of cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and around the world.

It is not yet clear how the spread of Coronavirus will develop and the extent of its impact on our school. However, you will be aware that other European countries have already taken steps to delay the spread of the virus, including the closure of all schools. It is therefore an increasing possibility that the UK Government may take similar action, and we have been planning accordingly.

A multi-disciplinary team has been working for some time to prepare responses to a range of scenarios, including a short-term closure of the school following a confirmed case within the school community, and a longer-term closure mandated by the Government. We are in regular communication with relevant outside agencies, and are receiving guidance and advice from the Government and from our trade associations, as well as from international schools which are currently closed and have been sharing their experiences.

In the event of enforced closure, we have plans in place to provide work and resources to ensure pupils are able to continue their learning. This will initially be distributed via email and through our website. We will provide guidance to parents on how to get the most from these resources, and ongoing access to staff for both pupils and parents throughout any period of closure. During the coming days, we will be running sessions with pupils to prepare them for the possibility of working at home for a period of time. Please be assured that this will be done sensitively so as to avoid unnecessarily alarming them.

In the meantime, we are doing all we can to keep those within our school community safe. Trips, visits, matches and activities are being assessed and reviewed and will be postponed where necessary, although we are endeavouring to maintain a 'business as usual' approach wherever possible. We will continue to reinforce to pupils the importance of personal hygiene, encouraging them to wash their hands regularly, as I'm sure you are at home.

You will understand that in the event of an enforced closure we need to continue to pay staff (who will continue to work through any closure) as well as meeting other essential costs to ensure that the school is able to reopen at the earliest possible opportunity. We would therefore be grateful if you could continue to pay fees as they fall due.

We often discuss the importance of building resilience with our pupils, and the need to take adversity in our stride. I have been pleased to see how well the schools have pulled together, sharing ideas and resources to ensure we can minimise the impact of any closure. This is undoubtedly going to be a challenging period for us all, but it is also an

opportunity for our pupils to develop their independent learning skills. We are committed to making the best of this situation and will do all we can to support pupils (and parents!) through the coming weeks.

If you have questions about this situation or these arrangements, please do get in touch with me or the school.

We appreciate your support for the School and for the measures we have in place during this challenging period.

Yours sincerely

Julia Foulger
Head Teacher