



17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Embrace Schools' Update on Coronavirus**

As you are 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 are getting in touch to let you know how all Embrace schools are responding and how you can support to help make sure that your school community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that all schools are taking all of the necessary steps to protect their community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government.

**1. The current situation**

**Schools remains open** based on the current official guidance from the government and Public Health England.

All school functions continue to run as normal. This include our Breakfast Club and After School Club. Pupils should attend school, unless they feel unwell, in which case please report this as you would normally do by phoning the school office.

If your child has a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature, they **should remain at home for 14 days**.

We are cancelling all class assemblies and Parents' Evenings for the moment. We will let you know when these can start again.

SATs for KS1 and KS2 are currently still scheduled to run on the same dates.

We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation regarding all these matters through the bulletin that is updated regularly and available through the Embrace website. Go to the Embrace website <https://www.embracemat.org/> and select the 'coronavirus' tab on the home page.

**2. What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff**

All Embrace schools are taking the following measures to protect pupils and members of staff:

- Increase regularity of cleaning, especially all toilet areas
- Regular cleaning of handled surfaces
- Enforcing and encouraging hand-washing
- Information, lessons and assemblies for pupils about hygiene and how to deal with anxiety
- Isolating any pupil or member of staff feeling ill, followed by arranging for them to go home.

### **3. What we need you to do**

If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**. We are sending a form home today to ensure that we have the correct details for everyone. Please return these as soon as possible.

Talk to your children about the coronavirus to make sure they feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps that older children can take to help with anxiety.

### **4. What happens if the school has to close?**

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

In either case, we will:

- Alert parents/carers of a closure by email and Facebook
- Update parents/carers regarding re-opening by email and Facebook
- Set work for pupils during closure by email and work packs which we are currently planning on placing on a table inside the school gates for parents to collect. These will be able to collect daily from 9-10.30am. A book will be sent home for the children to write in.
- We are currently investing in two online learning platforms. Details to follow very shortly.

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.

### **5. If you have any questions**

Please contact:

- The [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
- The 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
- The government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you are taking abroad should go ahead
- Your child's school, if you have any specific questions about our response to this issue.

We appreciate your concerns around the impact on your school community. It is important that we work together to keep each other safe and to talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Chris Southall  
Trust Leader

Rachel Roberts  
Headteacher/Principal