



[www.suttertonswinesheadfederation.co.uk](http://www.suttertonswinesheadfederation.co.uk)

*Two travellers are transformed and enriched by sharing their journey with a guide. We view our work to be similar in making a difference to future lives. We travel together on our journey of transformation and commit our school to always being supportive, nurturing and challenging.*

Luke 24: 13 - 35

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

With so much in the press currently around Covid-19 (Coronavirus), I thought it best to give you a current update from the Federation. All leaders met today to discuss contingency and response plans and I just want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to keep up to speed with the latest government (Public Health England) advice and will share any new precautionary measures the school takes as, and when, necessary. The Prime Minister is set to chair an emergency COBRA meeting today and further measures are expected, which may change our response plans.

We have had to make some difficult decisions. These may well change or be brought forward in light of government announcements:

- Postponing all assemblies from the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> March (no class assemblies or celebration assemblies until further notice). All assemblies this week require visitors to sit apart and hand wash on arrival.
- Swimming is cancelled until half-term and to be reviewed after half-term
- Cancelling all events for staff and parents which have external visitors - Swineshead's parents' evening to be postponed
- Asking all volunteers to pause from coming into school from 23<sup>rd</sup> March as this again minimises any potential contraction/spread of the virus
- We are looking closely at all trips. We have already cancelled one trip as it required the use of public transport. The Year 5/6 Swineshead trip to Boston Guildhall will still take place, but we have put additional health and safety measures in place to minimise risk. All other trips are under review with a possibility of cancellation
- Easter School has been cancelled.

Here are some common FAQs with regards to Covid-19 which you may find useful:

#### **Current advice:**

Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly

#### **What do I do if someone in my close family, or someone my children have had close contact with is diagnosed with Covid-19?**

Please follow the latest government advice. Make sure you tell NHS 111 that you have a child of school age. Please inform the school as soon as you can.

#### **What do I do if the school tells me there is a proven case of Covid-19?**

If there are any proven cases of Covid-19 affecting the school community (child, parent, carer, or staff member), you will be informed as soon as possible. As the current advice stands, schools are being told not to close without direct advice to do so from Public Health England. If there is a confirmed case, and the advice received by the school is to remain open, parents worried about any underlying medical issues that

already affect their family should make their own decision about sending children to school. Examples of situations where there may be greater concern include situations where:

- their child already has a significant health issue;
- there is little or no chance children can avoid, whilst attending daily school, coming into close contact with a vulnerable person (ie someone elderly and/or with significant health problems);
- there is a risk their child could spread the virus to someone looking after a vulnerable person.

We would ask parents in these circumstances to contact the school having contacted medical professionals and received further advice relating to their specific circumstances. We would also ask that you keep the school informed of the advice you have been given by medical professionals in assessing any risk to vulnerable people in your families. The school will not insist you send your child to school and, as long as medical advice has been sought, absence will be authorised in these cases.

### **Keeping up to speed with the latest advice**

You will probably be aware that the advice concerning returners from Italy has now changed. Please keep yourselves informed of the latest travel advice here:

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public)

[public](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19) Advice to schools is publicly available and can be found here

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

Further advice for other sectors can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-guidance-for-non-clinical-settings-and-the-public>

The Department for Education Coronavirus helpline is also experiencing a high volume of calls. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline but please be patient, you may be placed in a queue. Telephone: 0800 046 8687 (Monday – Friday 08:00 – 18:00)

### **School Closure**

There is of course the possibility of full school closures. If there is a school closure in the coming weeks or months, we will endeavor to set work for children to complete at home so that disruption to their learning is minimised. Ms Williams, Head of School at Sutterton Fourfields, is putting a programme of teaching support resources together in a letter for you.

### **Finally...**

A plea for support... For many of us, this is an entirely new situation that we are dealing with. We are doing our best to make the right decisions for the whole of our school community, taking advice from the DfE and Public Health England – we are doing our very best to protect you and your children and appreciate all of your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Collett  
Executive Headteacher

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