

16th March 2020

Schools

- The Bicester School
 - Bicester Technology Studio
 - Theale Green School
 - UTC Heathrow
 - UTC Oxfordshire
 - UTC Reading
 - UTC Swindon
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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter these uncertain and unprecedented times, we will be compiling a daily update to keep you informed of our processes and responses to the national and local position regarding COVID-19.

For today, we know that the government has moved to the delay phase, which is about slowing the spread of the virus. The current government advice is for schools to remain open at this stage (unless advised to close by Public Health England), although the wider plan does consider closure of schools and we are doing all we can to prepare for that eventuality (including how children can continue with their education).

In the meantime, anyone showing signs of the symptoms should stay at home for 7 days; this means stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Should your child display signs of the virus, please keep them at home and let the school know that you are taking this action as the advice above.

We have also taken the decision to cancel all school trips, sporting fixtures, parents evenings etc until further notice. As previously communicated, if any payments have been made for trips, we will continue to work with our insurance companies to gain refunds and return to you as soon as possible.

Please note that we are unable to provide special packs of work for children currently staying at home for 7 days due to showing signs of symptoms (as in many cases they are unwell and should be resting and recuperating), however our individual school websites do have details of the curriculum for each year group and children will be able to continue with work based on the details or continue with revision for older year groups. At the very least children can be reading set texts, revising previous work or reading around topics due to be covered in the next few weeks.

We are expecting more and more staff and students to show signs of the virus and to stay at home. We are monitoring the situation closely and at this stage all of our schools have staffing levels which allows them to continue to offer the full curriculum to all pupils. However, if a significant number of staff need to self-isolate, it may become difficult to operate the school in a safe and effective way. In this case, we plan to act as follows:

- We will close the school to some year groups, making careful decisions about who to prioritise.
- We will set work for non-attending year groups.

Thank you for your support and understanding at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



Joanne Harper
Chief Executive Officer - ALET