



# The Woodlands Academy

Woodlands Drive  
Scarborough  
YO12 6QN

Tel: 01723 373260 Fax: 01723 371715  
E-mail: [admin@woodlands.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woodlands.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
[www.woodlands.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs M Hockham

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Coronavirus

I appreciate that this is a sensitive and worrying time for all families, however please be assured that we are following all the current Public Health advice and that being given by the Department of Education and North Yorkshire County Council.

In light of recent updates and the impact this is having on our society and those in other countries we feel, as a school, it is important and prudent to plan ahead.

Due to increased difficulties in purchasing provisions such as food, our school lunch menu may have to be altered slightly to accommodate. We will do our very best to keep you posted of any changes necessary. We may also experience difficulties in purchasing hygiene resources such as toilet rolls, hand soap and surface cleaner. We have conducted an audit on our existing stock and feel we have enough to ensure school can continue to operate up until the Easter break. However, if we are unable to replenish stocks in the future, we may not be able to operate efficiently and may need to consider a school closure.

As parents/carers you will be concerned about the health and safety of your child and family, particularly those with already weakened immune systems or underlying health problems. Currently one of the big questions is whether parents will be penalised if they remove their child from school. The decision at this stage rests with the individual Headteacher of your child's school. If your child or close family member is vulnerable due to underlying health concerns, our recommendation is for you to keep them at home and self isolate. Please be sure to highlight this when you speak with us. If your child or close family member is feeling unwell, has developed a cough, fever, cold, flu type symptoms or self-isolating due to underlying health conditions, their absence will be marked as authorised, according to the Government.

As you are already aware, we are trying to reduce the risk to students through the implementation and raised profile of personal hygiene. We will, from tomorrow, be limiting the students' travel, cancelling all offsite trips and visits. We are also planning to limit visitors to school. Visitors will be admitted provided their visit is essential for the education, health or wellbeing of a student or is to carry out urgent maintenance on school property. Parents evenings will be cancelled and rescheduled for the summer term.

If a member of staff or student shows symptoms whilst at school that would require 'self-isolation' under the current Government guidance, they will be sent home to 'self-isolate'. School will remain open unless told otherwise or if the overall staffing absence level is so high that the safety of students cannot be guaranteed. Staffing levels and the



safety of our students while in school is our overriding priority. The varying needs of our students, means that it is not possible to specify a simple number of staff that are needed to ensure their safety. The situation will be assessed on a daily basis, considering the following:

- Numbers of students expected to attend that day
- The numbers of teaching and support staff who are expected to be at work
- The potential to re-deploy suitably qualified and experienced staff from other classes to support those classes with a shortage of staff.
- The ability to keep students safe and provide school meals etc.

If in the judgement of the Headteacher (or Deputy or Assistant Head), there are insufficient staff to ensure safety, students will be sent home.

Please can I remind you that schools are not being closed at this stage and if you are concerned about your child attending school, then you can keep them at home (any child kept at home during this period will be recorded as authorised absence).

As a school we are putting together some contingency plans. In the event of the school being advised to close, work will be made available by class teachers. Your child will receive their user names and passwords for school apps and/or websites that they can access at home to complete school work such as:

- Nessy
- Prodigy Maths
- Sumdog
- Bug Club

The current position is that the school is still open and we are being advised to carry on as normal, and we would therefore encourage children to attend school and access their education fully in class.

I will update as and when new information becomes available.

Kindest Regards

Michelle Hockham

Please note Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

On Monday 16/03/20 DfE launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk) Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)