

Discovery Multi Academy Trust
Beechwood Primary Academy,
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Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Alison Nettleship
Chair of the Board: Mrs Julia Guy



17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to my letter on Friday, I would like to thank you all for your support you have given to our schools in regard to the current Coronavirus situation. Yesterday evening the Prime Minister gave the first daily Press Conferences regarding where we are as a nation with this.

I have today met with the Heads of School and spoken to our Chair of Trustees to work through all the new guidelines and to ensure that we apply them where we can to the running of a school, whilst still following the guidance that schools are to remain open at this time. The guidance includes avoiding all unnecessary travel, avoiding social gatherings and avoid groups meetings of large numbers. Following these discussions, the following decisions have been made to ensure the ongoing safety of all our school community.

- All after school clubs and activities will be cancelled until further notice, from 18th March (tomorrow). I appreciate that this is very short notice but these are exceptional times. This is so that we can reduce the number of people on site across the school day.
- At the moment, Breakfast Club will continue to run. While we can still receive regular food deliveries, breakfast will remain on the menu.
- We will not be running assemblies in school for the present time to reduce the occasions when we have large numbers of people together as much as possible.
- Any meetings planned for parents e.g IEP reviews, SRE parents' meetings etc will be rescheduled, with a few exceptions, and these parents will be communicated with individually.
- To reduce the number of people on site we are going to work to avoid any additional adults and visitors within the school building for the foreseeable future. From tomorrow, **we are going to ask parents to remain outside of the school building and to remember to keep a 'social distance' while on the playground.** End of day contact with staff needs to be done by email rather than catching up on the door. **Please do not 'pop into the office' but instead phone or email us.** PTFA events will also need to be postponed.
- All visits, visitors and trips have been cancelled at this time, as well as after school events such as mini police at Beechwood.
- We continue to ask families to let us know if there is illness in the family (a high temperature and a new, persistent cough) and to self-isolate, following the new guidelines which is for 14 days if there are multiple people living in the house. There is now additional information which is required by the local authority that we will need to ask you for. We will send pupils home who are unwell.
- We will continue to promote hygiene routines with the children and to discuss their concerns around the virus. We have many resources that we can draw on.

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- We are asking pupils who are self-isolating but well enough to do so to carry on with reading, spellings and tables practice.

At the moment we do have several members of staff who are self-isolating, but have no confirmed cases in any of our schools and we are able to manage our normal classroom routines. However, it may be that in coming days if staff numbers decrease we will need to create different groups of children and teach them in more creative ways.

While the above does not make for enjoyable reading I can assure you that the atmosphere in school remains as positive and fun as ever and we are making sure that our children are enjoying each day as they normally would do. I will continue to communicate with you as, and when, any changes need to be made to our organisation as soon as we are aware of them.

If you have any concerns or questions at this time please contact your child's school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison", written over a white rectangular background.

Alison Nettleship
Chief Executive Officer