



# Hadleigh Infants and Nursery School Academy

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Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

I am writing to provide the school's latest guidance and advice linked to the coronavirus COVID-19. Since my last letter, the government have increased the level of measures to delay the spread of the virus. The latest guidance as set out by the government can be found below:

## **How long to stay at home if you have symptoms - (new continuous cough / a temperature over 37.8°C)**

- Anyone with symptoms should stay at home for at least 7 days.
- If you live with other people, they should stay at home for at least 14 days, to avoid spreading the infection outside the home.
- After 14 days, anyone you live with who does not have symptoms can return to their normal routine.
- But, if anyone in your home gets symptoms, they should stay at home for 7 days from the day their symptoms start. Even if it means they're at home for longer than 14 days.

## **If you still have symptoms after 7 days -**

- After 7 days, if you no longer have a high temperature you can return to your normal routine.
- If you still have a high temperature, stay at home until your temperature returns to normal.
- If you still have a cough after 7 days, but your temperature is normal, you do not need to continue staying at home. A cough can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

Since my last correspondence, there has also been some guidance linked to social distancing. Obviously, as school remains open, children will continue to come into contact with others on a daily basis. I would like to advise all parents that if anyone in the family home is displaying any of the symptoms identified above we will be asking you to keep your child and any other siblings off from school following the guidance set out above. Understandably, parents with children who live with underlining conditions as set out on the NHS website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults> are concerned about the amount of contact their children are still having as the number of people contracting the virus is increasing. If a parent feels that self-isolating their child(ren), who has an underling condition, even if they are not displaying symptoms is the right thing to do, the school will support this decision and authorise the absence. I would also like to reassure parents that any absence relating to self-isolation will be authorised. As always, the school will contact parents during the school day if their child(ren)'s health is deteriorating.

As the virus is now quickly spreading around the country regardless of previous travel and movements along with the new guidance from the government, we are expecting large numbers of families to self-isolate. The new stringent measures set out will also start to effect the staffing levels within the school. At the moment the school is currently able to fully operate as normal. I have made plans and provisions to ensure that we have the

best chance to continue to remain open for as long as we are allowed to. I urge all parents and staff to continue to follow the guidance set out to ensure that the school has the best chance of continuing to be able to operate in this manner for as long as possible.

I am aware that many parents are starting to become increasingly concerned about the length of time children may need to isolate for in the coming weeks in addition to any possible nationwide closures and the impact this may have on their education. As I have stated in previous communications, the school had already started and continues to plan and prepare activities to provide children with an education during long-term closures. This provision will be adapted and published as and when needed.

In the meantime, if your child has to enter self-isolation before this point they can access the following things to supplement their learning -

- Daily reading - this could be anything - books, TV guides, posters, recipes, leaflets, magazines.
- Access educational websites - including those we have recommended on the school's website.
- Access some of the educational year group activities.
- Access, watch and join in with familiar songs.

All of the recommended websites, activities and video clips can be found on the school's 'Working from Home' section on the school's website. This can be accessed using the link below -

[https://www.hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk/web/working\\_from\\_home](https://www.hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk/web/working_from_home)

This section of the website will continue to be developed and improved to help families support children at home during this difficult time. Further information about our provision in case of long term closures will be published as soon as I have notification that it will be required.

As we are experiencing an unprecedented number of calls into the office to record absences, I would like to remind parents that they can also email the school using [absences@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:absences@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk) . This will hopefully ensure that all parents will have the means to contact the school. We check this email box several times a day so all absences that have been emailed will be seen. If your child is self-isolating, please be aware that you will only need to inform us once and not every day.

In this time of national crisis, I would like to thank all of the parents and staff for their support and ask that everyone continues to follow the advice given. Working together and following the guidance we have been provided with is the best way for us all to protect each other. I will continue to keep you updated with any further information as soon as I receive it.

Yours sincerely

Mr. S. Proctor