

12th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST) has been keeping up to date with latest government advice regarding Coronavirus.

As always, we are maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness within the schools and we are supporting all our students and staff to maintain high standards of basic personal hygiene. Soap dispensers are being checked and refilled regularly to ensure there is always sufficient supply and staff will talk with the students about the importance of thorough hand washing. Relevant posters are displayed across our schools.

At the time of writing the government has remained in the 'Contain' phase of their action plan and as such our schools continue to remain open as usual. We will continue to follow all Public Health England guidance and advice to ensure the health and wellbeing of all students and staff remains our priority.

The Department for Education continues to keep schools updated on the government's response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and have launched a new Coronavirus 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, opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) or via email at: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk.

A poster produced by Public Health England can be found on the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869250/Coronavirus_advice_for_educational_settings_poster.pdf

Again, please be assured that all our toilet facilities are stocked with soap and paper towels/hand driers and checked daily to replenish where necessary. Our cleaning staff have been briefed on the importance of checking and maintaining appropriate hand washing facilities to support with containing the spread of all viruses.

We are aware that the government COBRA committee is meeting regularly to review their action plan and the impact of Coronavirus. Should the government move to the 'Delay' phase of the action plan we will receive direction from the government and we will inform you of this and our response.

STRONGER TOGETHER... EVERY CHILD IN A GREAT SCHOOL

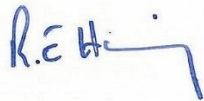
In the event of any direction to close the school, the main point of communication with parents/carers will be via the home page of the Trust and school websites, through the text messaging service and email. Any information shared via other means e.g. social media, will link parents/carers back to the website.

During any closure we will aim to provide support for students virtually to continue with their learning. This will be through a range of methods that will be discussed with children and which will also then be shared with parents/carers.

It is vital that you ensure we have your up to date contact details on our system. Please do contact your school should you believe your details need updating.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best wishes



Rob Haring
CEO of Westcountry Schools Trust