



Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

RE: Keeping Beckford safe from the coronavirus

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed regarding delaying the spread of the virus.

As stated in my previous letter, we will continue to get in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that Beckford Primary School is taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Camden

We are receiving daily updates from the Government's Department of Education on the current national picture, and are ensuring that we are operating in line with the directions and guidance we receive.

What is the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given
- All school functions continue to run as normal including Breakfast Club
- All families and pupils should monitor themselves for symptoms and self-isolate if they experience symptoms. People who do not have symptoms are advised to carry on as normal and do not need to self-isolate.

1. The current advice is to stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you are staying at home.

- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by telephoning the school office
- If you are informing the school that your child is missing school because they are self-isolating, please be clear about this when speaking to the office staff
- If you have informed the school that you are self-isolating, you do not need inform the school on a daily basis

2. If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus

- Then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**.
- The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill

3. If anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms

- They need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.
- See [ending isolation](#) section for more information

The Department for Education has a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education:

Staff, parents and students can contact the helpline by telephone and email:

Phone: **0800 046 8687**

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Here are some other links you may find useful:

- NHS information - www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
- Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> if:
 - you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
 - your condition gets worse
 - your symptoms do not get better after 7 days
- Only call 111 if you cannot get help online
- Self-isolation advice - www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/

What is changing at school?

In line with government advice and consultation with the local authority, we are reducing all non-essential activities for pupils and staff.

- Planned school trips are not going ahead. This includes the Year 5 residential trip to Kench Hill next week. We will hopefully reschedule any trips or look for alternatives in the summer or Autumn terms
- Parents Evening was cancelled
- Governors Meetings are to be postponed
- Apart from the head teacher's assemblies, all other assemblies have been cancelled. This includes the Early Years Easter Show. We will look at opportunities for the children to perform later in the year
- All non-essential visitors will no longer be coming to Beckford
- Swimming will continue to take place

- To prepare for a potential closure and due to lower numbers of children, we have combined many of the classes. This has enabled staff to work on specific projects to help the school

What happens if the school has to close?

As stated in my previous letter, we will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or if we do not have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will:

- Send an email to the email address we currently have on record
- Post an update on the home page of the school website
- Let you know via email and on the website when the school will reopen
- Set work for your child to complete either offline or online using Google Classroom
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What is Google Classroom?

Google Classroom is a free web service, developed by [Google](https://www.google.com) for schools, that aims to simplify creating, distributing, and grading assignments in a paperless way. The primary purpose of Google Classroom is to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students. Password and 'A Guide to using Google Classroom' will be sent to parents before the end of the week.

If we are advised to close the school, the teaching staff will be providing an online version of the 'Beckford Curriculum'. Work will become available from 9am on the first full day of closure. It would be great if you could provide your children with a set place for them to work. We will be sending home exercise books, pens, and pencils. All children will be given a pack to take home on Friday 20th March.

Although we realise that every family has different circumstances, it is important, if possible to try and give the children a familiar routine. We are suggesting that they follow a timetable similar to the school routine. At 9am at least four activities will appear on Google Classroom for your children to complete. Their teacher will be available to give feedback between 9-10am. Here is a suggested timetable:

9-10.00am	Check in / log onto https://classroom.google.com . Teacher available for communication.
10-10.30	Reading and comprehension
10.30 -11.15	English Focus (1 hour)
11.15-11.30	Break
11.30-12.30	Maths Focus (1 hour)
12.30-1.30	Lunch
1:30 – 2.30	The Wider Curriculum (Topic, Science, RE, PSHE)
2.30 – 3.30	PE or Art

Will the whole school be closed?

So far, we have not received any guidance about closing the school. However, one possibility that the school is preparing for, is a partial opening for the children of key workers. At present, there is no guidance on what constitutes a “key worker” but the category is likely to include anyone working in the health services and the wider emergency services, as well as possibly those in other key roles. To help us in preparing, it would be useful to know how many of our families might qualify as key workers. If you think it is likely that you will be considered a key worker please could you let us know in the school office, either via email (admin@beckford.camden.sch.uk) or via phone 020 7435 8646.

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- Children are being reminded to wash their hands at regular intervals during the day, including on entry to school in the morning and before leaving at the end of the day
- Hand sanitiser is available in every classroom
- Children have received lessons and assemblies on hygiene and how to deal with anxiety
- We have cancelled all other assemblies to minimise the time children spend as a large group in a confined space
- If a child becomes unwell at school with coronavirus symptoms (i.e. a new persistent cough or a temperature of 37.8° or above) they will be immediately taken to a separate room. Their parent/carer will be contacted and they will be instructed to take their child home and isolate for 7 days, as per the government’s guidance
- Our school is receiving enhanced cleaning at the end of every day

What we need you to do

- Keep your child at home and self-isolate if they become ill with either a temperature of 37.8° or above or a new, continuous cough
- If you’ve recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email to admin@beckford.camden.sch.uk or telephoning 020 7435 8646
- Check your email regularly for any updates
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It is a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- Come and collect your child straight away if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

I would like to thank all the parents and carers at Beckford for their support and resilience within such a challenging time. It is at times like this that we all realise what an amazing community we have at Beckford.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff at Beckford for their hard work and dedication. They have helped make a potentially difficult situation into a positive one by remaining focussed, calm and always being 100% committed to the children.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Drake
Headteacher