



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our Ref: JMK/SXG

15 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

## School Closure for Year 7, 8 and 9 Students

Since I contacted you yesterday, the school has seen an increase in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Year 7, 8, and 9. In addition, 40 staff are now absent from school with COVID-19-related issues.

Today I have liaised with Public Health Lincolnshire, the Local Authority and the Chair of Governors and a decision has been made for Year 7, 8 and 9 students to now access education remotely at home to prevent any possible future transmission of COVID-19. **The school will therefore close to all Year 7, 8 and 9 students from the end of today (Tuesday 15 December)** and will remain closed for the remaining 2 days of term.

The decision to revert to remote learning for Year 7, 8 and 9 students has not been taken lightly, but in these circumstances, it is the right decision to minimise any further risk of transmission in school within these year groups.

The school has tried very hard to deploy staff flexibility and to recruit additional staff to cover lessons. However, with the significant number of staff absent due to COVID-19 issues, I am unable to cover all lessons in school. By reverting to remote learning for Year 7, 8 and 9 students, this will allow the school to staff Year 10 and 13 lessons. The Department for Education has informed the school that it must remain open for year groups where transmission is currently low.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students will receive an authorised absence for the remaining 2 days of term.

I would like to emphasise that this is not a position that we would want to find ourselves in. We have tried incredibly hard to keep the school open to all year groups for as long as possible. Sadly, the nature of COVID-19 has forced us to take this decision.

## The school intends to remain open for Year 10 and 13 students only

Please note that if you have a child in Year 7, 8 or 9 who is already self-isolating from a confirmed case, they must remain in self-isolation until this time period has elapsed. Other Year 7, 8 and 9 students do not need to self-isolate. However, we **have been asked by Public Health Lincolnshire to inform you that students who are at home and not self-isolating must follow Government guidance on maintaining social bubbles. Students should NOT be freely mixing in groups of friends outside of school.**

Please be reassured that the school has, and will continue to take all preventative measures possible to protect the school community from COVID-19.



## What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should take a test and self-isolate until the test result is received. If the test is positive, students must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of first symptoms/test. If the test is negative and they are well, they can stop isolating. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 .

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days or until a negative test is received. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

## Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

## How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

*Do*

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards



### Further Information

Further information is available at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### Year 7, 8 and 9 School Work

Your child's teachers will set work for the remaining teaching lessons via the VLE. Tasks will closely mirror the work that would have been studied in school where possible.

Tasks will be uploaded to the VLE and should be available for the normal lesson time. Please note that live TEAMS lessons will NOT be available for the remaining 2 days of term because staff remaining in school will be redeployed to cover other lessons due to staff absence.

Your child should use the 'Reset' button on the VLE daily to check for new work set.

Your child should submit any work requested via the VLE by the given deadline and will receive feedback within the normal timeframe either via the VLE or on their return to school. If your child needs help with the work set then they should contact their teacher via the comments section of the VLE task.

Please contact the school if your child has any issues accessing remote education.

### For Year 7, 8 and 9 Only

#### Students of Critical Workers and those who are classed as vulnerable

If you are a critical worker or your child is classed as vulnerable (see link below for details) they are entitled to continue to attend school and access full-time education if you wish them to do so. However, it is your decision whether to keep your child at home. Normal lessons for Year 7, 8 and 9 students will not go ahead in school and students will access work via the VLE, which mirrors the work set for those students working from home. Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be in year-group bubbles and supervised. If you would like your child to attend school for the last 2 days of term, please email [wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk). Students should report to the main hall at 9am each day.

For any vulnerable students attending or students whose parents are critical workers, they can continue to travel to school by their normal mode of transport following social distancing measures. They should bring a packed lunch as normal or one can be ordered from the school canteen if they are entitled to Free School Meals.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

I am very sorry to have to inform you of this and appreciate the difficulties it causes families and childcare arrangements, but it is the right decision to make at this moment in time. I apologise that I am only contacting you at the end of the school day, but we have been extremely busy with cases today.

On a positive note, we will be recording the whole school virtual assembly on Thursday and a link to this will be sent with my parents' newsletter for your child to watch the assembly after Thursday if they wish to do so.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours faithfully

**Jonathan Knowler**  
Headteacher