



Lynn Road, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE29 8LF
Telephone: (0191) 258 8340
E-mail: info@stmacademy.org.uk www.stmacademy.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr D Watson BSc
Deputy Headteacher: Mr M Henderson BA
Senior Assistant Headteacher: Mrs K L Gammack BSc, MEd

DW/CM

18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update

I am writing to let you know that school will be **open for all year groups** tomorrow, Thursday 19th March. While we have a number of staff who are not able to be in school, the staff who are in school have been brilliant in working together to ensure we can continue to operate.

Potential School Closure

The Government are making an announcement about schools later this afternoon so I will be able update you tomorrow on what is happening next, including our provision for students working from home.

Pupils who should not be in school

Thank you for your support and consideration for both other students and staff in following the updated guidance:

- Any pupil with a cough **or** a high temperature should not be in school and should self isolate for **7 days**. We are taking a very cautious approach to this in students who we are sending home and we ask you do the same. This is to minimise the risk to the rest of the large school population.
- Students who live with someone who has symptoms should not be in school and should self isolate for **14 days**. The 14 day period is to allow 7 days for the symptoms to potentially develop and 7 days to pass the point of infection.
- Students who are vulnerable due to medical conditions are strongly advised to be “largely shielded” from the virus. I would therefore strongly advise these students do not come to school.

I am aware that some parents are concerned about whether children with conditions such as Asthma and Diabetes are in the vulnerable students group which they are. I would advise that if you are in doubt please do not send your child to school and report to us that they are vulnerable due to a medical condition.

There is a helpline available to schools that can also be used by parents as follows:-

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

I will keep you updated on any developments and thank you for your support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Watson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr D Watson
Headteacher