



Dear families

Corona Virus Update - Tuesday 17th March 2020

Yesterday the Government announced further guidance regarding increased measures to manage the Covid-19 pandemic and have focussed closely on the protection of those with underlying medical conditions and recognising the importance of limiting social contacts and mass gatherings.

We are further updating our school response planning, taking into account our duty of care to staff and children in relation to this new guidance.

The current government advice is that 'No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England'. However, if necessary and due to local conditions, headteachers may have to make arrangements for partial opening or total closure outside of the Public Health England advice.

As a result of the latest government's guidance on self-isolation and their guidance on social distancing, we find ourselves unable to fully staff the school. Today we have had to suspend provision of Breakfast & After School Club because the new guidance relating to underlying health conditions and household isolation, has impacted on staffing. To date we have I have not been made aware of any confirmed cases of Covid-19 linked to Chelwood.

The school will be open for as long as we can safely provide a service for children and families. If the situation arises where children cannot attend school, we will notify you immediately. This will only happen if we are either officially advised to close, or if we do not have enough staff to open safely.

To support the whole community we will prioritise service for children of key workers in the NHS; care services for the elderly and vulnerable; the emergency and other essential services and local authority services, who are on the frontline managing and coordinating the response to the pandemic. If you have not already notified us that you work in any of these fields, please do so urgently by contacting admin@chelwood.lewisham.sch.uk

Numbers of children attending Chelwood have been lower over the last few days with some families making the decision not to attend nursery school to avoid potential risk of infection. We are however, aware that many are still socialising widely outside of school, in local parks, playgrounds and on play-dates. I would urge families who have decided not to attend school due to the Covid-19 outbreak, to follow the current and latest Government advice being given by the government agencies particularly related to 'social distancing' and limiting social contacts to limit potential spread of the virus.

Should the school have to close, we will use our school website, social media and our Chelwood YouTube channel to provide you with home learning experiences for you to explore whilst you are at home, self-isolating and/or social distancing.

More details will follow in the meantime please familiarise yourself with the school's website and social media presence:

www.chelwood.lewisham.sch.uk

Facebook @ChelwoodNurserySchool

Facebook @ChelwoodFriends

Instagram ChelwoodNurserySchool

Twitter @ChelwoodHT

YouTube Chelwood Nursery School shorturl.at/yBFH4

Best wishes

Nikki Oldhams

Headteacher