

16 March 2020

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and well, particularly in the unprecedented times we find ourselves in with Covid-19.

### **Actions that we are taking:**

As a school we are continuing to follow all Government guidance and actively taking precautionary measures as much as is possible, such as liaising with our cleaning company regarding arrangements for organising deeper cleans; speaking with our transport providers over contingency plans related possible driver absence and increasing the level of cleaning in their vehicles and liaising with our café providers over additional cleaning measures and staffing contingencies that they too are putting in place.

At the core of Government advice for schools is that hygiene and in particular the correct, frequent and timely washing of hands, remains to be the single most important act that students, staff and visitors can do. We will continue to reinforce this both verbally and with notices around the site.

As you will be aware, there has been much talk in the press as to whether or not schools in England will face an early closure prior to Easter. We welcome the current decision to remain open and it has been business as usual this week with students keeping focused in lessons. We even managed to squeeze in a special visit from Professor Lord Robert Winston. More on that in our end of term newsletter!

Having said that, it is always prudent to plan for the unexpected and senior leaders in the school have been contingency planning for if our situation changes.

### **How families can support:**

In the meantime, there are also a few things that families can do to support us:

1. Encourage your child or children to follow the hand washing advice and/or show the video link at the end of this letter.
2. Update us at [admin@themisbourne.co.uk](mailto:admin@themisbourne.co.uk) with any recent changes to your contact details (including email addresses) so that we can ensure our records are correct and SchoolComms remains a reliable form of communication. Please put CONTACT DETAILS as the subject of your email.

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3. Follow the updated Government advice below if you are concerned that any of your family are showing symptoms and inform the school of any student absence in the usual way, but specifying if the absence is related to self-isolation.

### Future planning:

Alongside ensuring that our students are safe and well, the most important thing to us is that we continue to deliver the best quality education with all staff and students in school, in their normal lessons. We very much hope that we can continue to operate fully, up to and beyond the Easter holidays, ensuring that no students' education is affected and that Year 11 and 13 can focus on their exam preparations without any additional pressure and with our full support.

However, it is also plausible that there may come a point where the level of staffing in school is not sufficient for us to sustain our full curriculum and site safety. If this does happen we are working on plans that will include prioritising the teaching of Years 13 and 11 in school to ensure these examination groups are least affected, followed by Year 7 to try and support families who may find it more difficult to have these youngest students at home.

In the meantime, we expect all students to be attending school every day and on time, with the exception of the points noted in 3 above or for any other approved authorised absence.

We will keep you up to date both via SchoolComms and our website if our situation changes or if any of our planned events or trips are cancelled.

Thank you as always, for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Jo Meloni  
Headteacher

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### Updated Government Advice:

If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. Specific symptoms are: new continuous cough and/or a high temperature (over 37.8).

After 7 days, if you feel better and no longer have a high temperature, you can return to your normal routine. If you have not had any signs of improvement and have not already sought medical advice, you should contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. Cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. A persistent cough alone does not mean you must continue to self-isolate for more than 7 days.

Please share this video with your children to demonstrate how to best wash their hands to prevent infection:  
<https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

Please click on the following link for the latest information on COVID-19: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Please click on this link for specific guidance for educational settings:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

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

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