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**Executive Headteacher: Miss S.L. Philpot: M.A.**

24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

I thought I would write to keep in touch and to ensure that you have all the latest advice. I am sure you will have all heard the new Government guidelines, but Sandwell have very helpfully sent schools these so I thought I would share.

### **NEW RULES ON STAYING AT HOME AND AWAY FROM OTHERS**

The most important thing we can do to stop the spread of Coronavirus is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives. The Government have said the following – from today:

1. ALL people to stay at home, except for very limited purposes
2. Closing non-essential shops and community spaces
3. Stopping all gatherings of more than two people in public

EVERYONE MUST KEEP TO THESE -

#### **1. STAYING AT HOME**

You should only leave the house for one of four reasons.

- **Shopping for basic things** , for example food and medicine, only go when you HAVE TO - not every day.
- **One form of exercise a day**, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
- **Any medical need** , or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- **Travelling to and from work** , but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.

#### **2. CLOSING NON-ESSENTIAL SHOPS AND PUBLIC SPACES**

As well as the places which were closed last Friday, the Government has also closed:

- **all non-essential retail shops**- this will include clothing and electronics stores; hair, beauty and nail salons; and outdoor and indoor markets, excluding food markets.
- **libraries, community centres, and youth centres** .
- **indoor and outdoor leisure facilities** such as bowling alleys, arcades and soft play facilities.
- **communal places within parks** , such as playgrounds, sports courts and outdoor gyms.
- **places of worship**, except for funerals attended by immediate families.
- **hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, caravan parks, and boarding houses**



### 3. STOPPING PUBLIC GATHERINGS

To make sure people are staying at home and apart from each other, the Government is also **stopping all public gatherings of more than two people**.

There are only two exceptions to this rule:

- **where the gathering is of a group of people who live together** - this means that a parent can, for example, take their children to the shops if there is no option to leave them at home.
- **where the gathering is essential for work purposes** - but workers should be trying to minimise all meetings and other gatherings in the workplace.

In addition, the Government is stopping social events, including weddings, baptisms and other religious ceremonies. This will exclude funerals, which can be attended by immediate family.

This means children should not be out meeting or playing with others – you should not be meeting with ANYONE that does not live in your house.

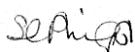
**Everyone is instructed to comply with these new measures.**

The Government will be ensuring the police and other relevant authorities have the powers to enforce them, including through fines and dispersing gatherings where people do not comply.

It is so important that to keep your families safe you stay in your house – do not meet up with anyone else and only go to the shops when you need to.

Our priority is keeping everyone safe – PLEASE do whatever you can to stay safe....

Take Care,



Miss Philpot

Executive Head Teacher



