



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to reassure you that we at Harriers are taking all necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Oxfordshire County Council.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given.
- All main school functions continue to run as normal, which includes Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club.
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – your child **should remain at home for 7 days** if he or she has any of the following symptoms:
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by calling or emailing the school.
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes (we receive daily updates from the DfE and Government).
- If a child falls ill at school, we will call home and ask you to follow the up to date guidance.

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

We are continuing to ensure good hand washing techniques are in place throughout the day and teaching pupils the importance of this alongside reducing the times they touch their face. We are also ensuring that we are teaching lessons around mental wellbeing and anxiety to support pupils. To further protect pupils, we have sought guidance from other schools and decided to reduce social gatherings and non-essential contact with external people. This means:

- All non-essential visitors, trips, assemblies and events are cancelled. This includes class swimming. This is to help ensure correct social distancing.
- Parents Evening Wednesday 18th March is postponed. Reports will be provided. We will reschedule in due course.
- The Year 3-5 production is postponed. We will reschedule in due course.
- Adult visitors to school will be kept to a minimum until the Easter holidays. We will review ongoing.
- The frequency of cleaning of high contact areas has been increased.
- To limit large gatherings onsite, assemblies have been cancelled and lunch arrangements have been modified. Children eating hot dinners will continue to eat in the canteen, while children eating packed lunches will do so in classrooms.

School clubs have been cancelled from today. Wraparound care before and after school continues as usual, as will teacher-led booster sessions.

If you have paid for a trip or event, this will be carried forward to a new date when we are able to rearrange. (If for any reason we are not able to rearrange, refunds will be organised then.)

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**.
- Talk to your children about the Coronavirus and make sure they feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).
- Check that you can access our webpage and your child's Seesaw account (so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point).
- Visit the school office only if essential - you can email office@harriers-aspirations.org or phone 01295-263067.

If you have any questions, please consult:

- The School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue.
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of Coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111.
- Department for Education's Coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to Coronavirus in relation to schools.
- Government's [Travel Advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead.

This is an unusual time and we thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Alex Pearson
Executive Principal