



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to update you on the most recent advice given to us by the Government, Public Health England and HCC based on the announcements made yesterday, including this afternoon's update on the Government website.

The school received this update from the Government on 13 March 2020 in a daily email update to all early years, children's social care, schools and further education providers. I feel that it is important for us all to know what has been said.

The Government website states clearly the following:

'Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce will be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.'

In addition, we have received specific guidance on educational trips. All local trips, such as weekly horse riding will go ahead as planned until further notice.

The Government has issued new travel guidance for the education sector. This advises against all overseas education trips for children under 18. This does not apply to domestic trips, or overseas trips which are already underway.

I have received calls and emails from a number of parents who have expressed their concerns about our school staying open during these uncertain times. I appreciate your concerns and acknowledge your worries about your children's safety.

To reassure you, all schools, locally and nationally, are taking their instructions from the Government and Health Professionals who ultimately are in a position to make these decisions. We are experiencing unsettling times, where clear, factual information is key to

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successful and calm decision-making.

At this moment of time, Lonsdale School will remain open for students and staff with the expectation that everyone attends normal timetables and lessons.

Best wishes

Annemari Ottridge
Headteacher

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