



Larwood Academy Trust

Executive Headteacher: Mr Sean Trimble B.Ed (hons) MA NPQH

WEBB RISE, STEVENAGE, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG1 5QU
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Larwood School

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Pierre Van Der Merwe – BA, NPQH

Brandles School

Headteacher: Mr David Pearce – BA (hons), PGCE, NPQH



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Update-Covid 19 and how we are dealing with the issue (March 16th 2020)

Following my letter on Friday 13th March, I write to update you regarding our school situation today. I, along with many others, are increasingly concerned about the rate of infection and the impact this has on the safe running of the school. I am also aware of the media reports highlighting our different approach as a country to those around the world. This is increasingly adding to anxiety for many staff, parents and of course our pupils.

As of today at approx. 9.30am, we have eight staff away. Half of the staff that are away are now self-isolating due to family members-not connected to any confirmed cases within our school. However, it is recognised that getting a confirmed diagnosis has now become practically impossible, unless you are hospitalised. Due to this high number of staff being away, one class has had to close down (both staff in that class are away, and the cover is also away). The symptoms being experienced are those highlighted via the NHS i.e.:

- High temperature
- Persistent coughing

We have fifteen pupils that are also away, due to concerns about this illness and/or family members being effected. It is logical to assume that the number of staff/pupils effected will grow day by day. What I cannot predict is the rate of growth.

Therefore, alongside previous information and advice please note the following:

- The leadership team will meet each morning to assess the situation, and how matters may have changed overnight. If you are effected, please email/ring the school as soon as you can. This will really help us to make any relevant decisions.
- Please see the school website for any generic information
- As previously reported, we may well have to close down classes on a day to day basis
- If staffing continues to be affected we will have to close down the school
- We are likely to start taking temperatures of pupils as they come into school and will return pupils home if they are running a high temperature
- All staff will leave the site earlier than usual (by 4.30) to ensure extra time is created for additional cleaning if needed. For example, on Friday evening the mini bus and school car were both cleaned, alongside all classrooms.



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Thank you for your emails and messages informing us of your situation. Please note that whatever decision you make related to attendance in the next few days, we will respect it. There is no right or wrong in these circumstances, just what is correct for you, your child and extended family.

Thank you again with your support in this matter

Yours sincerely

S D Trimble

Headteacher



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