



17th March 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed overnight. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we request from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at Castell Alun we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Flintshire County Council

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school lunchtime and after school clubs have been postponed until further notice
- Students should attend unless they feel unwell or if anyone in your household has a high temperature or a new and continuous cough – even if it's mild **everyone** in your household must stay at home for 14 days and keep away from others. **DO NOT** go to the GP, pharmacy, or hospital. Go to nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk to check your symptoms and follow the specialist medical advice. Only call NHS 111 if your symptoms worsen. Protect older people and those with existing health conditions by avoiding contact. Find out how to isolate at home at phw.nhs.wales/coronavirus
- If your child is unwell, or is self-isolating due to another person in the household feeling unwell, report this as you would normally by telephone (01978 760238) or email (main@castellalun.flintshire.sch.uk)
- All trips abroad have been cancelled for this academic year
- Events at school and trips within the UK have been postponed up to the end of term with discussions ongoing about those planned for after 3rd April
- Exams are still scheduled to run on the same dates as things stand – we are awaiting further information from Examination Boards on this
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

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

- We are contacting parents/carers when a student is feeling ill on the school premises
- We are increasing our cleaning regime
- We are enforcing hand-washing or providing hand sanitisers on entry/exit to the canteen
- We are talking to students about hygiene and how to deal with anxiety

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via the telephone number or email address above
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a worrying time for many and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-50088888) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-50088888) 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 your child has access to the Google Classroom from home, and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point)

What happens if the school has to close?

As per my email/letter yesterday, we'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school. In either case, we'll alert parents to closure via our website, social media feeds and www.flintshire.gov.uk and will let you know when the school will be reopened in the same way.

As I have already indicated in a previous emails/letters, our staff team is already preparing to be able to continue delivering learning experiences, as best we can, using online resources such as Google Classroom, BBC Bitesize, MathsWatch etc and hard copies of materials. More details will follow shortly.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close but we are monitoring the situation day by day.

If you have any questions about our response to this issue, please contact the main office.

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you again for your continued support.



Paula Williams