



18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Coronavirus – COVID-19

You will all be aware of the current situation with Coronavirus. We have been sending out updates over the past two weeks and would like to outline the guidance following the Prime Minister's address which is aimed at limiting the spread of the virus.

As of 18<sup>th</sup> March the DfE is advising schools to stay open. Sir Thomas Abney plans to stay open unless we are advised otherwise by Public Health England, Hackney Learning Trust or the DfE. Additionally, each day we are carrying out a risk assessment of current staffing levels and may need to consider partial or whole school closure at short notice for the safety of children. This is an ever changing picture and we will communicate with you when changes impact the running of the school and the welfare of your children.

As mentioned in our last newsletter <https://sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2019-20-Sir-Thomas-Abney-Newsletter-11-13th-March-2020.pdf> we would like to reassure you that we are doing everything possible to stop the virus spreading within our school community.

The following website is the most accurate source of information and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

**Currently, households should self-isolate (stay at home and away from crowded areas) for 14 days should anyone be displaying symptoms of a new and persistent cough and a high temperature – feeling hot to the touch on their chest or back.**

Should your child/ren need to stay at home please contact the school office:

- Call 020 8800 1411 to leave a message on the answerphone or speak to office staff
- Send a text message to 00447441906414 clearly stating the reason for their absence
- Email [parents@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:parents@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk) clearly stating the reason for their absence

Where we have become aware of children or staff being in contact with someone who is showing symptoms we have followed guidance and ensured that they are sent home and self-isolated.

Sir Thomas Abney is following the advice provided and has regrettably **postponed trips, meetings and events** that may expose children and adults to large crowds or gatherings. Following the postponement of Tuesday's Parents Open Afternoon class teachers are in the process of contacting parents to provide a telephone consultation regarding their child's progress. In the Summer Term we will provide an Open Afternoon for any parents who have not been able to meet or speak to their child's class teacher.

In the event of Sir Thomas Abney closing for an extended period we will contact you via Text and email to notify you of this. A notice will also be placed in the News section of the school website. Currently, we are preparing for continuing the children's education subject to closure, e.g., sending

resource packs home, uploading work to the school's website and using online learning platforms. As a matter of urgency please contact the school office if you do not have access to the internet or you have not provided us with an **up-to-date email address**.

We would like to thank all of you for your on-going support in helping us ensure that the children are continuing to learn and that our school community remains safe.

Yours sincerely

*G Fitzmaurice*

Geraldine Fitzmaurice  
Headteacher