

Mr J Freeston BSc (Hons)
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17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on King Offa Academy's response to the Coronavirus outbreak.

We have been informed today that a pupil who attends the school is recovering in isolation at home having been treated in hospital for the symptoms of Coronavirus.

From the start of the outbreak we have promised that we will follow government advice and communicate clearly with you about our plans in the coming weeks. The advice from Public Health England is that schools with suspected cases of Coronavirus remain open. We have taken the decision to inform you of this suspected case because we want you to be able to make an informed decision about whether your child continues to attend school at this time.

School will be open as normal tomorrow because we know that if we close it will cause great disruption to the lives of front-line workers who are supporting members of our community at this challenging time. School staff are united in their desire to play their part in overcoming the challenges we face. You may wish to make alternative arrangements for your child tomorrow and not send them to school. This will allow us to minimise the risk of spreading the virus further and protect school staff as far as is possible. If you choose not to send your child to school we will authorise their absence and will not apply our normal attendance policy.

Tomorrow we will organise a way for parents and carers who are front-line workers to let us know whether they need their children to attend school over the coming days. This will allow us to organise staffing and activities for the pupils.

Please be assured that any pupils who do need to attend school tomorrow will be warmly welcomed by staff and taken very good care of.

Miss Baker has today been working with staff in organising work that could be sent home if the school were directed to close. The developments today mean that staff will need to do this more quickly than we thought. We plan to share work and activities that can be completed at home, along with a timetable of suggested tasks by the end of the day on Friday.

I know that this news will be unsettling and there is inevitable disruption ahead in our lives. I hope that by being clear in our communication with you and sharing our plans, you are reassured that we are doing all we can to support you and your children at this time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Freeston".

James Freeston
Executive Headteacher