

Oakbank School



2nd March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You will no doubt be aware from the news and social media that there has been a confirmed case of the Corona Virus locally. I have been in communication today with headteachers and representatives from Anthem Trust, as well as Public Health England to seek advice regarding this situation, and I am aware of the decisions that have been taken to close three nearby schools.

We have been fortunate at Oakbank and nobody associated with the school has had any contact with the virus or been in the position in which they have had to self-isolate.

Under these circumstances the national advice and guidance from Public Health England remains in force until such time as we are notified otherwise. Therefore Oakbank will be open as normal until and unless we are advised by the Local Authority or Public Health England to the contrary.

A significant concern that we face in relation to the virus is the upcoming Ski Trip to the Austria / Italy border. The current advice from the Foreign Office is that the area is safe and therefore the trip will still be going ahead. We will, of course, continue to monitor this situation and advise you of any changes to circumstance.

We will also be monitoring other, more local trips, and will inform you if any of these events are effected, closer to the time

This is an anxious and potentially difficult time for us all but I would urge the entire Oakbank community to follow the advice from Public Health England and to refrain from speculation. The welfare and safety of our students remains our foremost concern and we want to ensure that they receive any information in a calm and structured way which will reassure them and avoid unnecessary worry. I will remain in close contact with Public Health England and the Local Authority and update you as appropriate.

For the full advice and guidance for the COVID- 19 in Educational Settings, including advice on how individuals can protect themselves, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Bertrand', is located below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Mr R Bertrand
Principal