



Garden Suburb Junior School

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Administrator / School Business Manager: Ms Julia Chalfen

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus Update

I am sure that you are well aware of the extremely challenging situation posed to schools by COVID-19.

The government recently changed their advice for vulnerable groups and also their orders for self-isolation. This information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

This has, in common with many schools across the country (but particularly London where the outbreak is at its most severe in the UK) had considerable impact on our staff.

The following school activities have now been cancelled due to staffing difficulties:

- Early morning groups – IDL and SATs groups
- After School Typing Club (Thursday), Netball / High 5s Club (Thursday) and Homework Club (Friday)

I also regret to inform you that the Royal Albert Hall on 30th April has been postponed. I understand ticket holders will hear directly from the Royal Albert Hall in due course regarding new arrangements. We have taken the decision not to order the hoodies for anyone and the payments which have already been made will be reimbursed.

We are aware that our pupils' families are increasingly feeling the impact of the virus and growing numbers of our students are now unable to come to school due to self-isolation protocols. Our pupil attendance was 63% today – 131 children are absent.

We are very mindful of the difficulties for parents that a school closure will cause but soon our staff/pupil ratio will make staying open unmanageable. **With this in mind I am asking parents to consider only sending their children to school tomorrow if they are unable to make alternative arrangements. There was an announcement this afternoon that all schools in Wales and Scotland will close by this Friday, at the latest, and I would urge parents to make arrangements as London schools will be going the same way very soon.** We will keep you updated as soon as we receive any new information.

Thank you for your support. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our staff who have been extremely committed and supportive during this difficult time.

Finally, your children are to be congratulated on their sensible conduct and attitude throughout this unprecedented set of circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Eileen Bhavsar | Head Teacher

