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15th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update for Parents

Following the recent developments, both nationally and locally, it is appropriate that I write to you about our ongoing approach to supporting the UK response to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

We continue to follow all the appropriate expert advice from Public Health England and the guidance issued by the Department of Education about how educational settings should handle the current situation. The guidance is updated daily and we will continue to post the links to this on our school website so that parents always have easy access to the most up to date information available.

We do not currently have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 within school and as such we remain open as per the guidance and the risk to any students or staff is classed as low. Two families (Reception and Year.1) have followed precautionary medical advice to self- isolate as one of the parents, in each case, has recently developed a cough.

As a precaution, we have taken the decision to temporarily postpone all unnecessary social events and external visits into school for the remainder of this term. This means that class masses, themed events, sporting events and planned parent evenings will not go ahead as arranged. Could I also ask that parent readers and class volunteers refrain from coming into school for the remainder of the term and, wherever possible, could parents telephone or email the school office with non-urgent issues instead of calling into school.

We would encourage parents and family members to regularly check and follow the latest expert advice available on the following site:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>
- <https://www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus>





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In line with latest government advice, pupils must stay at home for seven days if they have either:

- A high temperature – feel hot to touch on their chest or back
- A new, continuous cough – this means they have started coughing repeatedly

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital and you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home. The NHS website link provided earlier offers clear advice on what to do.

To help us monitor the situation for our school community, please ensure that you notify us if you or your immediate family are now self-isolating. Hygiene of everyone attending school is something we all need to remain mindful of. We have a hand sanitizer available outside of the school office and we ask that parents, entering the school, use this when calling at the school office. Our toilets will be checked regularly to ensure that there is adequate soap and sanitizer available for pupils to use and we will continue to encourage them to use it appropriately when needed. The daily cleaning routine in the school ensures that high contact areas, such as door handles, are disinfected regularly.

We are committed to keeping parents informed and will provide updates in line with latest expert advice. If there is a government directive in the future, instructing us to close the school, we will use our school website, app and email to keep you updated. We will provide some paper based materials and online based learning which will require internet access on a phone, tablet or computer at home. If you live in a location where your child would be unable to access the internet, please can you inform us as soon as possible, so that we include that information in our ongoing planning. As requested in my previous correspondence to you, could all parents **please ensure that we have your up to date emergency contact details**. If these have changed, please call the school office as a priority.

Thank you for your cooperation as we seek to take a calm and expert-based approach during these unique times.

Yours sincerely

Mr L.J. Duncan (Headteacher)

