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Monday 16th March, 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are continuing to follow government guidance regarding Coronavirus and will continue to share relevant information with you all. As we are sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. Our first priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in school.

It is likely that a high percentage of the population will contract the virus and will make a normal recovery. This is expected by the government and we have clear steps to follow and lots of support from the Department for Health when this happens. The advice from the Department for Health for schools in this situation is copied below:

What to do if a case of COVID-19 (pupil, student or staff) is suspected in your childcare or educational setting

If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in a childcare or educational setting, no restrictions or special control measures are required while laboratory test results for COVID-19 are awaited. There is no need to close the setting or send other learners or staff home. As a precautionary measure, the NHS are currently testing a very large number of people who have travelled back from affected countries, the vast majority of whom test negative. Therefore, until the outcome of test results is known, there is no action that staff members need to take apart from cleaning specific areas ([section 13](#)) and disposing of waste ([section 14](#)). Once the results arrive, those who test negative for COVID-19 will be advised individually about returning to education.

What to do if a case of COVID-19 (pupil, student or staff) is confirmed in your childcare or educational setting

The childcare or educational setting will be contacted by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team to discuss the case, identify people who have been in contact with them and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken.



An assessment of each childcare or educational setting will be undertaken by the Health Protection Team with relevant staff. Advice on the management of pupils or students and staff will be based on this assessment.

There is nothing in the guidance that suggests we should notify the wider school community to help stop the spread of the virus but we are aware that the situation is developing rapidly. We also know that if there is a possibility of an infected pupil passing COVID-19 on to an 'at risk' person, then this is something we should avoid.

We have taken the decision to notify parents of the class concerned if a confirmed case is reported to us. This will aid families in their decision making and help keep people safe.

As it stands, there are no confirmed cases within our school community.

Already in school we have raised the profile of good hygiene patterns through assemblies, lessons and posters and have ensured that our cleaning regimes and standards are good. This is an entirely unprecedented situation and we are following official advice from the government and the NHS. This advice is being added to on a daily basis and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published.

Actions Taken in school

- Regular hand-washing is encouraged for all children.
- Staff have been advised to self-isolate for 7 days if showing any symptoms.
- External advisors have been rearranged for another time to visit school.
- Whole school assemblies are cancelled until further notice - class assemblies instead.
- Easter Church service is cancelled as we cannot guarantee the hygiene of the church and it's open to the public.
- Parents are advised not to come into classrooms in the mornings and at home times. Parents coffee morning to be postponed.
- No educational visits are to be planned until further notice as we cannot guarantee outside providers hygiene and cleanliness is ok - plus staff isolation potential may affect ratios.
- Dinner times will be organised through staggered sittings, spaced along the corridor and use of nurture room, class 3 to keep groups as separate as possible.

If a school closure is issued parents will be notified as soon as possible and packs of learning activities, information will be posted on to your child's class pages on the website too.

Recommendations to families based on Government advice

We have published a list of recommendations based on advice from the NHS and Centre for Disease Control and Prevention to help families manage the spread of infection and care for 'at risk' people.

- It is important to identify, in your range of contact, who is classed as vulnerable and help avoid them contracting COVID-19. At risk people (taken from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention) are;
 - Older adults
 - People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Lung disease
- Once identified, consider supporting 'at risk' people to 'socially distance' to reduce the possibility of contracting the virus. The relevant advice from the NHS is;

- Try to keep at least 2 metres (3 steps) from 'at risk' people (older people or those with long-term health conditions)
- Friends and family and delivery services could deliver things like food shopping and medicines – but avoid contact with them
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- Encourage 'at risk' people to not leave the house, for example to go for a walk, to school or public places

At a strategic level we are planning how we operate in these difficult circumstances and what we will do if widespread school closures happen, to ensure we can support families that need childcare, vulnerable pupils and also continue education in the best form we can. If school does not have your most up to date contact details, please provide them to us immediately to ensure we can message families in an efficient and timely manner.

Should you wish to discuss your concerns further, please do not hesitate to phone or call in at the office.

Yours faithfully



Headteacher

Sources of information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>