

17th March 2020

Dear parent/carer

I know that you will have been hearing a lot about the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the news and I am writing to update you on the latest government advice and on the actions being taken in the school.

The advice remains that schools should stay open. However, there are other significant changes in the health advice. The key changes are that:

- Anyone with a fever (high temperature) or persistent cough should stay at home for seven days if they live alone or 14 days if they live with others. If anyone in your home is displaying coronavirus symptoms, your children should therefore stay at home and not come to school for 14 days
- Everyone should avoid non-essential contact with others. This is particularly important for people over 70, those with underlying health conditions and pregnant women
- People should avoid places like pubs, clubs and theatres

The government says its previous advice on the importance of hygiene remains: everyone should wash their hands regularly.

In school, we have therefore been telling the children about the importance of hand-washing with soap (particularly before eating, after play times and after toilet visits). We have also told them that they need to use a tissue for coughs and sneezes or to cover their mouths if they don't have a tissue. The tissue then needs to be thrown away and/or the hands cleaned. We will continue with these messages on a daily basis and talk to children privately if they are forgetting to follow that advice.

We have also increased our cleaning so that door handles, handrails and frequent touched surfaces are regularly cleaned. Hand sanitiser is available for the children in all the classrooms and toilets. This is checked regularly, but please ask your child to tell their class teacher if it ever runs out.

We have also made the very difficult decision to cancel the school trips that are planned for the next few weeks as the government has advised against all but essential travel.

The school is planning and preparing for possible closure and we will be keeping in contact with you during any closure about supporting the children's learning. It is therefore really important that we have your most up-to-date contact details, including mobile numbers and email addresses, so please let the school office know of any recent changes.

Please see the latest public health advice at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public> or telephone the Department for Education coronavirus helpline on 0800 046 8687 for more information. You can also speak to the school office if you have any questions.

I can assure you that the health of the children and staff is our top priority, and would like to thank you for your continued support and co-operation in what is a challenging time for us all.

J M Wilson

Headteacher