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Head Teacher: Mrs J Hymers (M.Ed)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parent/carer,

**Re: Coronavirus**

I am writing to update you about the school's current position regarding Coronavirus.

I understand and share exactly the same worries and concerns as you - staff all have families, many have young children, aged family members and family members who are unwell or have underlying health conditions; it is difficult not to feel some worry given the levels of media reporting.

We take the health and safety and wellbeing of our pupils, their families and staff very seriously, and, as such, we want to reassure you that we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE).

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

The risk is currently low in County Durham, however to minimise the spread of any infection in school we are:

- Ensuring we encourage children to wash hands regularly – as they arrive, after outdoor activity, before eating, before food preparation, after going to the toilet and before coming home.
- Maintaining our high standards of cleanliness – cleaners in school ensure surfaces, handles, etc are cleaned; they undertaking deep-cleaning on surfaces daily.
- Follow advice - the most recent UK government advice is that anyone with a **new continuous cough and/or a high temperature** should self-isolate for **fourteen days**. We are following this guidance. Current advice is that should the symptoms get worse in that time then you call 111. Please check online in case this advice has changed. If no symptoms are present then current advice states that children should come to school.

We are reviewing some of the activities we are undertaking to assess risk, based on Government advice – for examples visits and visitors. At the moment the following events have now been cancelled (due to the possibility of staff and children coming into contact with other groups, where we cannot control handwashing, etc.)

- Mother's Day Brunch – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March
- Easter bonnet decorating – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March
- Easter Stay and Play – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

If circumstances arise where the school must close, we will inform you in our usual way via text/email, Facebook posts and website updates.

We are currently making plans for supporting your child's education should a closure become necessary and will keep you informed on this.

### **Prevent the spread of infection**

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then place the tissue in a bin and then wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

As I mentioned, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, but this is being updated regularly in response to the changing situation. We will monitor and follow the national guidance as it is updated and would urge you to do the same.

Thank you for your support and understanding at this time.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Bond  
Acting Head Teacher