

Covid 19

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you with some specific advice about the Coronavirus outbreak and our plans for the coming weeks. As I am sure you will understand, it is hard to predict what the impact on schools might be, but we have taken steps to plan as best as we can for future events and would appreciate your support and understanding.

Awareness

In classes next week, the children will be given a talk about the virus and the steps they could take to help prevent or delay its spread. This will be based on NHS and government advice about the importance of regular handwashing and avoiding coughing/sneezing over other people. Posters reinforcing this advice are now displayed around the school site.

Hand washing

We have increased our stock of liquid soap to ensure that children and staff can wash their hands more frequently. We have asked children to wash their hands at break, lunchtime and home time. We will ensure soap dispensers remain topped up and will clean toilets more frequently.

General Cleaning

We are prioritising certain areas of the building; the surfaces that people touch frequently such as handrails and door handles. Staff are regularly cleaning these areas.

Contingency Planning

As the path of the Coronavirus outbreak develops, we will be following advice from the Department for Education and the Government. This might, at some point, involve temporarily closing the school on a full/partial basis.

If this happens, please note:

We have remote access to Parent App and can send notifications to all families to keep them updated. Please ensure we have your up to date email address and mobile phone number and the APP is downloaded. THIS WILL BE ARE ONLY WAY OF COMMUNICATING WITH YOU IF WE ARE CLOSED.

We can update our school website and PTA Facebook page remotely and you should check this daily in the event of closure.

Children's Learning

It is vital that, if the school closes, children continue to work. Whilst there is no substitute for being in a classroom with a teacher we will aim to put as many resources on Purple Mash and the website for children to access. If we get notice of closure, then we will send children home with the books and materials we think they need.

You can help us by doing the following:

- Making sure your child accesses the school website and their Purple Mash account to look at what learning is available for their class.
- Making sure your child has somewhere quiet to work and that some time each day is dedicated to school work. In the event of an extended closure, we ask that parents try to ensure conditions at home are conducive to good quality work each day.
- Encourage your child to read books.

School Trips

As present, all our planned trips and visits are going ahead. We are monitoring official advice and will communicate with parents/carers on a specific basis should this become necessary. Please remember that short-notice changes to itineraries may be due to circumstances beyond the school's control.

Examinations

Year 6 are due to take their SATS in May. These are National Assessment and therefore any impact on exams will affect the whole country, we will follow any official guidance and keep parents updated.

Further Information and Avoiding Anxiety

The Government and the NHS have made lots of advice about Coronavirus (also called Covid-19) available on their websites. I recommend that you look to those sources of information for updates and news about the virus and avoid listening to rumour and second hand information from other sources. Clearly this is a developing situation and, at the time of writing, the risk to health and the smooth running of the school is deemed **low to moderate**. However, that alone can cause anxiety and therefore I am sure you agree we can work together to help reduce this worry in our children.

You know your own child best, but together we should:

- Do our best not to sensationalise or overdramatise the issue.
- Encourage sensible hygiene precautions and not over-washing and worry.
- Stick to known facts rather than speculation.

I realise that the situation and the related disruption will cause worry and anxiety. It is understandable that we will all deal with the stress in different ways but please be aware that it may be impossible for me and my team to satisfy all parents/carers with the decisions we have to make in regard to school closure or other significant interventions. Our resources may be stretched for some time, so please try and support us as much as possible and take careful consideration when posting anything on social media in relation to the school. Our staff will be doing their very best to protect you, your children and their education.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Holt

Headteacher