

13th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re:- Coronavirus Update**

I am writing to you to update you on what measures we as a school are taking in response to the current Coronavirus outbreak.

We are working very closely with the Local Authority, monitoring the situation throughout the UK and especially in Essex. We are also taking advice from the Government and Public Health England issued to all educational establishments on a daily basis. Should a confirmed case occur at our school, the local Health Protection Team would provide the school with advice and work with us to take any steps necessary. There is currently no cause for concern.

The latest guidelines state that should your child show flu like symptoms such as sore throat, cough, high temperature then they should be kept at home.

We have reviewed cleaning regimes and are practising infection control measures. We have also been teaching and encouraging the children to:

- Wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and hot water often throughout the day
- Cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing using tissues provided around the school
- Throw away dirty tissues quickly into bins provided
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands

We would strongly recommend that you consider this advice and continue these practices with the children when they are at home. The Department for Education has asked that we share the following link on effective hand hygiene measures:

<https://twitter.com/NHSuk/status/1235112744917049346>

There has been much media speculation about school closures, we will keep you informed of any developments in this regard and in the meantime are putting plans in place to provide children with work through our various apps and online platforms, should the need arise. Please ensure that your child is able to login to the various apps they have been given access to by their class teacher, details of which are in their reading diaries. I would like to emphasise, we have currently had no information that we will close, but want to be prepared.

Please ensure that the school has your most up to date contact details so that we can pass on advice and contact you with more information. Please make us aware if your child is having to self-isolate or has developed symptoms and we will discuss the next steps with you in terms of school attendance.

## **Guidance**

Below is the latest guidance which you may want to look at, including a DfE helpline.  
The details of the helpline are:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

### What guidance has the Government given regarding Coronavirus?

Schools and parents should refer to the latest information and advice from the **Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England** to get the most up to date guidance from Government.

### What guidance has the Government given to schools regarding providing advice to pupils, staff and parents about Coronavirus?

The Government has published guidance for schools and other educational settings in providing advice for pupils, students, staff and parents about the Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19.

Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk>

If you are experiencing flu like symptoms contact NHS Direct on 111.

Finally, if you or child has any concerns about Coronavirus please do contact us. Whilst we cannot answer queries regarding health, we can hopefully point you in the direction of support and put your mind at ease.

Yours sincerely,

Alexis Bull  
Headteacher