



13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will have seen, yesterday, the Prime Minister upgraded the country's required response to containing the Coronavirus.

This global pandemic is the largest public health event in a generation and we should act accordingly, but also ensure we do not cause anyone unnecessary panic or alarm and keep a happy, safe and effective learning environment in operation as long as possible.

Listed below are the next stages of our response, plus what you can also do to help minimise the potential impact of this illness.

### **In school, we will:**

- Ensure children's hands are washed as they arrive at school and at regular appropriate times during the day.
- Minimise the number of large collective, confined activities in school, such as assemblies and crowded lunch times. We will consider appropriate alternatives to assemblies etc and let you know as soon as arrangements are made.
- Keep fresh air moving in school as much as possible e.g. windows open.
- Enhance the daily cleaning regime in school.
- Encourage children and adults not to have unnecessary direct contact, including hand shaking and (very sadly, but only temporarily) non-urgent hugging etc. Your child will still know that we love them and that they are safe and cared for.
- Monitor closely the health of our children and staff – this might mean asking you to keep your child at home for 7 days if a **new**, continuous cough or a temperature is detected. If a member of staff develops mild symptoms, we will also ensure this advice is followed. Because these measures will be precautionary, we will not generally inform you of such absences, but of course we will ensure teaching is covered appropriately.
- Begin to prepare for the possibility of a school closure if the Government thinks it might be necessary at some time in the future, by preparing ideas for learning at home.

### **You can help us by:**

- Keeping a really close eye out for the symptoms described by the Government in your child / children – i.e. **NEW, CONTINUOUS COUGH OR a TEMPERATURE ABOVE 37.8 degrees** and by keeping them at home and taking action as advised, as quickly as possible, if needed. Please let us know in school if you are keeping your child off as you would in normal circumstances, so we can keep an appropriate record.
- Please follow the advice yourself, and if you feel unwell as above, do not come to school.



- Avoid congregating in the school entrances before or after school. Please note, we still really want to hear from you, but it would be much better to ring or email us. We will ensure our telephone lines and emails are monitored regularly.
- Please do not worry unduly or allow your child to become too anxious. We need to respond to this issue seriously and responsibly, but also in a way that children understand and can engage fully and positively with.
- Begin to prepare for the possibility of a school closure if the Government thinks it might be necessary at some time in the future, by considering appropriate care options.

Current advice is that schools are open as usual, this means that we expect children to be **in school, on time** and with the **correct equipment**, unless they are unwell. We are working hard in school to maintain an upbeat, calm and resilient environment that reflects the measured response advised by medical experts.

I hope these measures assure you that we are trying to balance our duty to the health and safety of your child / children and the wider public health concerns with the essential job of keeping children feeling safe, happy, cared for and secure.

We will, of course, keep in very close contact with both yourself and the appropriate authorities during this time, receiving and responding to relevant information and guidance and providing you with updates as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

*Ms Alison Cramp*

Headteacher