Tuesday 17th March 2020

**Delay Phase Measures - Update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wrote to you on Friday outlining new measures the school has put in place now that the government strategy has moved to what they describe as the Delay Phase. We are working with the other schools in the Trust to meet the challenges of this situation.

The government has **not** decided to close schools and we do not have any indication that they will close schools in the near future.

We are taking pro-active measures that go beyond current government guidance in an effort to protect our children, families, staff and the wider community as much as we can. The situation and guidance of course may change.

We will communicate any changes to you via text on Teachers2Parents and via the school website if we are required to close at short notice.

***Action for parents and carers: Please ensure we have the correct email and contact numbers for you.***

New guidance has been provided from Public Health England which states that if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

The symptoms are:

● a high temperature and/or

● a new continuous cough

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you’re staying at home. They will not be testing those self-isolating with mild symptoms. If you do not have those symptoms you should attend school as normal.

**Self-declaration for adults**

When adults are coming into school, we will be asking whether they have any of the symptoms above and if so, they will not be allowed on site. We shall also be asking them to wash their hands on entry to the school.

We will also restrict the non-essential movement of adult visitors around site wherever possible. Please make sure you bring your children to their class and leave by the gate entrance, not walking through the school building. If the bell has rung and you are late, please bring your children to the school office and staff will escort them to their classes.

Nursery and Reception children will be met by staff on the top playground between 8.30-8.45am. The teachers will then walk them to their classes. They will be dismissed from the playground at 3.15pm every day too.

Parents who bring your child to the Resource Base, we ask that you bring your child to the office and staff will walk them to class. At the end of the day, you can collect your children from the school office at 3.15pm.

**Children who become ill in school**

If children are showing the symptoms above we will be calling you to collect your child/children as soon as possible.

***Action for parents and carers: Please ensure we have at least two up to date contact numbers for your child.***

**Hygiene measures around school**

We are continuing to expect children and adults to regularly wash their hands. We have also re-directed our cleaners to focus on high contact areas when they are cleaning around school e.g. door handles and hand rails.

**Reducing non-essential activities – visits and visitors**

As I wrote to you last week, we will be reducing and stopping non-essential activities, particularly where they involve children going off-site or involve large numbers of people.

To provide further clarification, the following activities will go ahead with the checks on health as described above:

* Part time teachers e.g. coaches, swimming, ICT and French
* Parent and carer volunteers in school e.g. for reading
* Special needs provision e.g. play therapists, speech and language therapists
* After school clubs - these are beyond the school day and you can therefore decide if you wish your child to attend

The following activities **will not be going ahead until further notice**:

* Inter-school sports competitions
* Off-site trips
* Off-site training
* Large performances in school such as Class Assemblies, 100% Attendance Assemblies etc

We understand that this may cause disappointment for you and your children and we appreciate your understanding of these changes to help keep everyone safe.

**Preparation in case of closure**

We are working, along with other schools and staff from the Trust, on preparing learning materials and wellbeing support for your children to access via the school website in case of closure.

***Action for parents and carers: Please let the office know if you do not have access to the internet at home so we can make alternative arrangements.***

**Support for families: Managing anxiety**

This is an anxious and uncertain time for many of us. Please do come and talk with us or any senior staff if you have concerns. You may find the following resources useful in talking to your child/managing anxieties about Coronavirus:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51734855

https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-for-children/

https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/coping-with-coronavirus-anxiety-2020031219183

**Practical help in the event of school closure**

There will be some families who will find a school closure more difficult.

***Action for parents and carers: If any parents or carers would like to contribute any non-perishable food or sanitary items that can be distributed to families in our school community, please bring these to the school offices. This will be shared on an honesty basis. If your family will need any of these items please speak to Mrs Gibbs, Mrs Thomson or Ms. Morris in confidence.***

We know that the changes we are making will have an impact on you and your children. This is an exceptional situation and our priority is to do what we can, to help keep our children and our wider community safe.

We are extremely grateful to you for all your support and for working with us.

Yours faithfully,

Ruth Hudson

Headteacher