



Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus – School update (double sided)

You have probably seen the news that the government yesterday announced some new measures to deal with COVID-19 and also a change to its overall response, moving from the ‘contain’ to the ‘delay’ phase of its plan. As before, the advice remains that effective hand hygiene and using a tissue when coughing or sneezing are some of the most effective ways in which we can help reduce the spread of the virus. The school is continuing to do all that it can to minimise the spread with good hygiene and is following all the advice from Public Health and Herts County Council and as such we believe there is no additional risk to students and staff.

Self-isolation and staying at home

As you know the government has widened their advice on who should self-isolate to include those that have coronavirus like symptoms - a new or continuous cough or a high temperature, however mild - should stay at home for at least 7 days to protect others and help slow the spread of the disease. All our staff will be expected to follow this advice, and we ask you to ensure that your children do so too. If your children are absent from school because they are ill, please continue to call the school every day on 01442 404008.

In certain circumstances you may be advised by medical professionals to keep your child at home even if they are not unwell. If this is the case please let us know and we will support your decision. I understand that parents are concerned about the risk of their children catching Coronavirus and that some may wish to keep children at home even though they have not had any medical advice to do so. However, we cannot agree to a child’s absence for that reason alone. All children who are well enough to come to school are expected to continue attending as normal unless advised otherwise by Public Health England.

The possibility of school closure

Some parents have asked whether we could choose to close the school now. If we are ordered to close the school by Public Health England, because there is a risk to children/students and staff we will do. If the government make a decision to close all schools we will do so, otherwise our intention is to stay open and operate as normal. The Government has made it clear it expects schools to remain open unless public health advice has been given to close. This is based on the clear advice from the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government, Sir Patrick Vallance, on how best to manage this epidemic. We are sure that you will be supportive of this.

We are however preparing a system of communication called Edmodo. Please fill in the slip below if your child would be unable to use a computer/iPad or a mobile phone with internet connection.

Keeping informed

Obviously, we will continue to provide updates as the situation continues to develop and would ask that you inform the school of any contact your family may have had with a person with symptoms or who has tested positive.

Please return to school office as soon as possible

My child..... In class does NOT have access to a computer/iPad or mobile phone with internet.

Signed.....

Date.....



Precautions currently in place at Aycliffe Drive School.

- Children are asked to wash their hands on entry to school and before lunch (in addition to going to the toilet). Any donations of soap would be greatly appreciated.
- We have put sanitising stations around the school for pupils/staff/visitors to use.
- All computers/iPads have been sanitised; however we are avoiding using them where possible.
- The water fountains have been turned off (water available from the kitchen) but we would ask all children to bring their own filled water bottle to school. Please ensure bottles are labelled with child's name and class.
- School dinners may differ slightly if the food orders are affected.
- Cups used by children in the school and Nursery are being sterilised.
- We would ask parents not to come into the building unnecessarily. Please return letters and payments via child's book bag.
- Parents Consultations will regretfully be postponed from Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 March. New dates will be confirmed shortly.
- The PCSO's who were due to do an assembly from KS2 and parents on Tuesday 17 March has been cancelled. They have had direction that all non-essential social engagements are to be postponed.
- With regret, Reception's Mothers Day breakfast has been cancelled.
- Assemblies will be suspended until further notice (this includes class parents assemblies).
- Workshops from outside school will again be suspended until further notice.
- The Book Fair has been postponed but the World Book Day character dress up on Friday 27 March is going ahead.
- The Easter Egg hunt may be postponed, we will let parents know the decision as soon as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Maria Green
Headteacher