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16 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### COVID-19 Update

As you are aware the spread of COVID-19 is changing daily, the school is continuing to follow Government and Local Authority advice. Our priority is to ensure this advice is followed and that parents are given consistent and accurate information.

As such, we need to inform you that the parent of a child at the school has a suspected case of the virus. The parent is self-isolating in accordance with PHE guidelines.

The Department have launched a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education and have said that staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Telephone: 0800 046 8687 or  
Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)  
Opening Hours: 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday

Further information is also available via the links below and is updated as the situation changes:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

We will continue to provide the school community with information as we receive it. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Children should stay at home **if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature** to avoid spreading infection to others. **Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal.** If staff or children become unwell during the school day with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home.

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild





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symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce will be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

***Handwashing advice***

***The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.***

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards

Maria Budd  
Headteacher