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16th March 2020

Dear Parents,

COVID -19 (Coronavirus)

We are writing to parents about the school's response to the Coronavirus outbreak. As you will have seen on the news, many countries have now increased their precautionary measures. We continue to receive daily updates from various government departments including Public Health England and the Department for Education. The government has launched their Coronavirus Action Plan which sets out what the UK as a whole is doing to tackle the virus.

The action plan can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan. The plan includes:

- What the government knows about the virus.
- The actions the government have taken so far in response to the current outbreak.
- What they are planning to do next, depending upon the course the current coronavirus outbreak takes.
- The role the public can play in supporting this response, now and in the future.

Our school focus at this current time will include the following areas:

1. General advice in school about preventing the spread of infection
2. Ensuring parents are aware of the most up to date Government advice
3. Considering arrangements for current/forthcoming visits
4. Contingency planning in case the school is instructed to close

The general advice about preventing the spread of infection remains with the importance of personal hygiene being the most effective way to tackle Coronavirus.

- ✓ Wash your hands more often than usual with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds each time, or use hand sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available.
- ✓ Avoid touching your face and putting your hands to your mouth.
- ✓ Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, or the inside of your elbow and regularly wash your hands. Keep a distance from others when coughing, or sneezing. Dispose of the tissue by throwing it in a bin, or flushing it down a toilet ('Catch it, Bin it, Kill it')
- ✓ Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- ✓ Frequently clean touched objects and surfaces.

As a school we have already been implementing additional hygiene measures. Children are regularly reminded about hand washing and posters are displayed in school as part of good hygiene practice. Our Shire Services cleaning team are paying extra attention to 'touch surfaces' as part of their daily clean.

Children are welcome to bring their own packs of tissues to school which we strongly encourage. Please ensure your also child has a water bottle with them every day to avoid use of the shared water fountains. Water bottles will be sent home daily for washing/sterilising/refilling with fresh water.

Following the latest government guidance at the end of last week:

- If your child shows signs of infection (new, continuous/persistent cough and/or fever with a temperature of over 37.8 degrees C), please do not send them to school for seven days as they must be in isolation according to Government advice.
- **Please ensure we have the most up to date telephone contact details for you and an email address in the event the school needs to collect you to collect your child without any delay.**
- There is government advice which can be found at <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> This provides helpful advice for any family members showing symptoms.

We will continue to inform parents of any changes to events as we receive further information from the government and event organisers. The Open the Book assemblies, Community lunches and the Easter Experience workshops have already all been cancelled with effect from last week. Nuffield recently advised that the Year 6 mental health workshops have been postponed until further notice. We wait to hear further information about forthcoming events including the Shrewsbury Half Marathon and Shropshire Sings.

The current government and Department for Education advice is for schools not to close. However, if this guidance changes, we will inform parents as soon as we receive this information in the constantly changing situation.

We thank you as parents for your support during this challenging time for everyone.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S.L. Woolley
Headteacher