Monday 16th March

COVID-19 Coronavirus update and guidance

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support and understanding over the last few days. As you will be aware, the school is open, following advice from the County Council and Public Health England. Current guidelines are that if a pupil or member of staff displays symptoms they are to self-isolate for 7 days. If there is a confirmed case at school then Public Health England will advise on the appropriate and proportionate steps to take. Where a pupil or staff member is self-isolating due to contact with a confirmed case the current national advice is that schools should remain open. However, the NHS are not testing people unless they have severe symptoms and need to be hospitalised, therefore, we do not know whether Mrs Jacobs has flu, a virus or the corona virus.

I have been in touch with a number of different departments about this and had a long detailed email from a doctor at the Incident Control Centre who stated that:

“For those who have symptoms [in school] the same advice applies as for the general population:

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

• new continuous cough and/or

• high temperature

If you have these symptoms, however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection.

You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111.” Incident Control Centre March 2020

Please see the following link for advice for self-isolating.

<https://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#who-this-guidance-is-for>

Additional work for pupils

If the school is required to shut or if pupils are self-isolating, we will provide some work for pupils to do. Where possible, we will provide a hard copy booklet for children to use and we can set ‘to-dos’ for children to access at home on Purple Mash. We would also provide a general list of activities and guidance which can be done e.g. reading, maths practise etc.

Cancellation of non-essential activities

The health and wellbeing of our pupils, their families and our staff, as well as the wider community are very important to us but we will align with the county guidance and continue as normal for as long as we can. Pupils will receive additional support in school to help alleviate their worries, especially in light of our closure on Friday.

In line with other local schools, we have made the following decisions, cancelling all non-essential activities:

1. Our Mother’s Day assembly and Easter celebrations are cancelled. We will put videos and photos on the website instead. We will not be doing a hat parade in the playground in the morning but children can still have Easter hair and hats if they want to. We will do a lap of the field to show them to everyone!

2. We have cancelled outside providers coming into school when appropriate.

3. There will be no year 6 parent meetings. Those people who had made an appointment will receive a written review from Ms Turnough.

4. Aligning with other local schools all sports’ fixtures will be cancelled until further notice – football match and tennis tournaments.

5. Trips and visits will be assessed on an individual basis (look out for information – residentials will be reviewed after the Easter holidays). The reception visit to Greenlands Farm next Monday has been cancelled and the Year 1 Inspiring Infants sports event has been cancelled on Thursday.

6. We will look to minimise visitors into school. Anyone who does come into reception will be

expected to sign in then wash their hands before coming through the second door.

7. We will continue to remind children on the importance of good hygiene and hand washing, supporting their mental as well as physical health. We are asking children to wash their hands as they come into school in the morning, before fruit/milk, before lunch, after using the toilets and then at the teacher’s discretion – as and when necessary. We have some hand sanitiser in school so please let us know if your child has an allergy to it. If children bring their own into school, they must not share it with other children for this reason.

We will endeavour to stay open during this difficult time as long as our staff/pupil ratios remain safe but will follow advice from County and Public Health England.

Thank you for your support with this. lf you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Kind regards,

Jenny Redhead

Deputy head teacher