



Old Hutton C of E School

- A DfE National Support School

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Monday, 16 March 2020

Coronavirus Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from last week's letter, I am writing to explain some additional precautions that school will now take, based on National guidance, and actions agreed at a meeting of local primary head teachers on Friday 13th March, to further reduce the transmission of Covid-19. Please support school in these steps as we attempt to '**delay**' the spread of the virus. This is in no way intended to cause panic or additional concern; it is for all of us to do what we can to help the situation.

Illness

Guidance to individuals on signs of illness have been updated:

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 the designated affected areas or been in contact with people who have returned from those 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 symptoms, to slow the spread of any infection.

The symptoms are (either or both):

- **A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)**
- **A new, continuous cough**

Please do not send your child to school if this is the case. In the event of a child displaying symptoms of illness in school, as is our usual practise, we would contact you immediately to collect them from school. Similarly, please do not come into school yourself if you have these symptoms. Any staff with these symptoms will be expected to stay at home for 7 days.

You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Please let us know immediately if you think anyone in your family may have contracted or been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with Coronavirus Covid-19.

Adults in school

We are taking measures to reduce social contact in school:

- **Parents' evening meetings with class teachers planned to be held on Thursday 19th and Monday 23rd March have been changed into phone call appointments and ask that parents do not come into school for these.** We will use the same time slots given out to all parents today, but instead of you coming into school, your child's class teacher will phone you at that time for a short (up to 10 minutes) update conversation on progress and any particular concerns they wish to discuss. Teachers will call you using the phone number contact we hold for the mum of each pupil. If you have an alternative for the number we use for this call, please let us know. The teacher making the call will appear on your phone as NO CALLER ID. If you still need to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher, please call/email the office. A text message was sent out earlier today to all parents with these details.

- **Drop off and pick up** – we ask that **adults now drop off ALL children, including Class 1 pupils, with their class teachers at the front of school and avoid coming into school** unless this is absolutely necessary (we don't want upset children). All children in Classes 2, 3 and 4 can make their way into school independently so please don't accompany them. If you need to communicate with staff this can be done when teachers come outside to collect classes at 8:50am or when they come out with their classes at the end of the day. Otherwise, please phone or email your message to the office.
- **Breakfast and After School Clubs** – please use the door buzzer to alert staff of your arrival and hand over or collect your child/ren to the staff on duty at the door. There is no need to come into school at the end of any after school clubs; please wait outside in the yard at the front of the building for your child/ren to be sent out/brought to you by the staff in charge of the club.
- Parents can use **telephone or email to update the office and teachers about any absence**, illness, messages or information about buses and clubs. We would ask you to visit the school office only if absolutely necessary and avoid crowding the entrance area outside the school office and classrooms. Any written notes or payments can be delivered by children in a labelled envelope.
- **If a face to face meeting with a member of staff is necessary for any reason**, this should be conducted after school in the entrance area outside the school office.
- If it is necessary for an adult to come into school, we ask that everyone please continues to follow published guidelines about personal hygiene and contact with others. **If you are coming into school, we need to ask you to please wash your hands on entry (using the staff or disabled toilet facilities near Class 4, accessed via the stairs and corridor) and before you leave.**

Church-School Events

Weekly **Open the Book** worship (on Thursdays at 2:50pm) has now been cancelled until next term. Our end of term **Easter Service** in church will not be open to parents/families and the local community, but will still go ahead with children and staff in school; we will make photos/video available via our Facebook page. We know that often elderly relatives and members of the local community attend these church-school events and we do not wish to put any member of our school or the wider community at increased risk of becoming ill.

Sports/Dance Events and trips

Again, with maintaining the health of the whole community in mind, the KS2 **Quicksticks Hockey** tournament and The **Brewery Dance Platform** event scheduled for next week have been cancelled. Class 4 will perform their special Dance Platform dance for the rest of school and we will share this via our Facebook page; hopefully, we will share another performance specially for parents next term. The **Aquarium visit** (Class 1 and Y6) on Thursday has also been cancelled on Thursday this week, to be postponed until next term. Next term's Y3/4 **York residential** is also likely to be postponed until later in the year. The **Strickley Farm visit** for Y2 on Friday will however go ahead as planned.

Closure

These measures will hopefully delay the spread of the illness among children and families and also protect the health of our staff, so that our school can remain open to children. Closure would prove an enormous challenge for families and school. Therefore, your help with this is essential. We will remain open unless directed to close by Public Health England, or in the event of us losing too many staff to remain safely in charge of our pupils. In the latter case, closure will only happen after the situation has been risk assessed by myself and Governors.

Continuing Lessons During Closure

School has a duty to continue to provide education for our pupils as far as possible if we have to close during normal school hours. To this end, teachers are making plans to keep OHS learning even if not at school together! As part of this, we are further extending our **Google Classroom online learning platform** with the aim that all pupils will be able to access lessons and learning with the support of their teacher from home in this way. Class 4 are already very used to this for their regular homework and other activities and had a good 'trial run' of continuing lessons with Miss Harrison there to support them online during our recent closure due to the boiler breakdown!

Class teachers will provide further information about using Google Classroom to their classes later this week and we will inform everyone about how to continue learning at home if we do need to close school at any point in the future.

Further Information

As ever, we will continue to closely monitor situation and follow the guidance published in daily updates to us in school. Further guidance is available to families from the following dedicated helpline:

Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline: Phone 0800 046 8687 Open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday

Here is a web link to the most up to date NHS Guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Travel

We would encourage all families to **consider any travel plans** they have for the Easter break, in light of the current international picture of the outbreak. Please keep up to date with all official guidance and consider the extent to which your plans might put yourself, and in particular other, more vulnerable people at risk of being affected.

Healthy Living

In school, we continue to promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle as a means to stay well (**regular hand washing, using tissues for runny noses, drinking plenty of water and eating a healthy balanced diet**). We will also continue to promote a calm and considered approach to this rapidly changing and unprecedented situation, focusing on understanding facts and providing updates to the whole school community as needed. Please remember that while increasing, the risk at this stage remains low and the specific risk to children from Covid-19 is low.

Please do use the advice line above or contact us in school with any concerns.

With best wishes from,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Andrea Walker
Head teacher