



Highters Heath Community School

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Head Teacher Mr B Doherty B.Ed(Hons)

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

We would like to update you, so that you have the latest information around the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

We have restricted visitors coming into school, and cancelled any trips where children would come into contact with anybody from outside school. Parent's Evening next week is also cancelled, as are any meetings in school that are not immediately urgent. We are not holding any assemblies in school at the moment, including class assemblies. If parents/carers have any concerns relating to their children, they should telephone school (rather than come into the office) and we will arrange a meeting or telephone conversation as appropriate.

New COVID-19 advice:

If a member of your household has symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature of 37.8+ or/and a new persistent cough), all family members within the house should self-isolate for 14 days. Please inform the school on the first day of your child's absence. School will then call you during this period to check how things are. Please ensure you do not send your child back into school until after 14 days from the first day of absence. Otherwise, if your child and the rest of your household are not showing any related symptoms, they should attend school as normal. If your child becomes unwell on school site with a new, continuous cough or/and a high temperature, your child will need to be sent home. If you have a confirmed case of coronavirus at home, please contact school straight away. **Any self-isolation taken will not affect your child's overall attendance.**

Media and Speculation:

We would appreciate it if all social media and parent/carer discussions associated with the school was positive, supporting the whole school community, which includes parents/carers, staff and children. WhatsApp groups are a good place to remind each other to read the school communications as well as accurate sources such as the ones listed below. High levels of speculation and rumours could lead to a sense of anxiety in the school community as well as ill feeling between individuals.

Contact details and keeping you up to date:

When appropriate, we will send updates regarding COVID-19 by text message or email.

To date, we have 29 cases of self-isolation in total and there have been no confirmed cases of coronavirus among pupils and staff. Please check our website www.hightersheath.co.uk and text messages daily for further information and guidance. Please ensure we have your most up to date contact details.

We will continue to reinforce and supervise correct and thorough handwashing. We will continue to clean 'high contact' points throughout the day and after school. All of the staff are maintaining strong routines and promoting a sense of calm and order across the school.

The NHS page for advice on the current plan for tackling COVID-19 <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Public Health England. <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Handwashing Guidance - <https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline for Schools, Pupils and Parents (Currently experiencing very high call rates) 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>

We really hope you don't feel we are over reacting, as our only consideration is the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support. We will get through this together!

Kind Regards,

Brian Doherty
Head Teacher