



Little Hill Primary School

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Part of the OWLS Academy Trust

LETTER NO 16

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on Little Hill's current situation and approach regarding the international outbreak of Coronavirus and to reassure you that we are taking all appropriate advice. I want to thank you in advance for your support in this matter during this global crisis.

Coronavirus-Advice from the DFE

We have spoken to and continue to remind the children about the importance of handwashing in school. Each day the Department for Education issues up to date advice to school, which we follow carefully and we will continue to do this.

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education have launched a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

- Phone: 0800 046 8687
- Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
- Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Currently the advice is that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England.

The importance of hygiene

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19. We have spoken to all of the children about this however, please help us in sharing simple and effective hand hygiene messages i.e. washing hands regularly and thoroughly.

What are we doing

Measures schools can use to prevent infections fall into two groups: improving personal hygiene, and enforcing social distancing to reduce the possibility of contact between infected and non-infected people.

/contd.



1. Promote good hygiene and minimise activities that involve personal contact

We have provided, and will continue to provide, age-appropriate and repeated instruction about personal hygiene and interpersonal physical contact.

We are continuing to take extra precautions with our cleaning and are regularly wiping down surfaces, doors and equipment to minimise the spread of germs.

2. Make changes to school timetables to minimise student and staff exposure

The following parts of the school timetable have been suspended until further notice:

- All clubs, **excluding** the before and after school clubs run by Metcalf Sports.
- All assemblies
- All large school events including the Year 2 SATs evening this Thursday
- The Year 4 trip to Bethel Church
- The Year 5 visit to Wigston Library
- The Foundation Stage visit to the Play Village
- The Year 2 visit to Tropical Birdland
- 3SY Parents' Evening

We are reducing non-essential contact from adults and have suspended volunteers and non-essential outside agency work.

Please could we request that face-to-face communications with the school are kept to an absolute minimum. This includes contact via the office and with teaching and support staff before and after school. We are happy to discuss any queries, comments or concerns via the telephone, so please do contact us.

The school trips have been cancelled as a precaution to safeguard the school community as a whole. We will let you know if any of these trips are to be re-arranged as soon as we have this information.

Metcalf Sports before and after school clubs will continue to run as normal unless we are advised otherwise.

3. Preparations for closure

If a closure is put into place, we will inform parents via e-mail and text message. A message will also be uploaded onto our website www.littlehill.leics.sch.uk. We will then provide educational resources and online resources for you to use with your child. You will appreciate that this may take time and we ask for your patience and support in this matter.

Unfortunately, whilst we are open we are unable to provide packs of work for pupils that are away. If your child is off school, please read regularly and complete timetables rock stars. We will send out communications in the next day or two of websites that may support home learning.

Safeguarding the health of our school community is paramount importance to us; this includes our pupils' mental health and wellbeing. The reason that we are taking the measures outlined above is to play our part in protecting the wider population as children pass on infections to others.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Vina Pankhania
Headteacher