



Little Hill Primary School

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LETTER NO 17

18th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update as of 3pm on Wednesday 18th March 2020

Firstly, I would like to thank the overwhelming majority of our school parents and community for their support at this time. It is a really difficult time for families, communities, public services and businesses and I have been really pleased to see people working together to support each other in a time of uncertainty and concern. A letter came home from myself yesterday outlining our steps to support the governments 'delay' phase for Covid-19. The steps outlined in the letter are to support the protection of the school community from the Coronavirus. The school community includes pupils, parents, grandparents, carers, staff and all contact that these individuals have with their own friends and family.

We have had a couple of concerns raised which I would like to address for everyone:

Concern 1: Sending children home that are presenting with coughs in the classroom where there were no sign of them coughing at home before they came to school

The government advice is: 'if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home'. We have contacted Public Health England and they have advised that the onset of the virus could just be a cough and so if a child is regularly coughing or has a persistent cough, they should be sent home. We are not medical professionals; however, we are vigilant in this matter. If children are noticed to be coughing regularly in the classroom, we are asking parents to collect them and keep an eye on them at home. Parents will need to monitor their children and self-isolate as necessary. Where parents feel that the cough is not regular or persistent, they should take advice from Public Health England. We absolutely understand that it is inconvenient if you are working, however, I'm sure you will agree that it is better for us to be vigilant to protect the most vulnerable within our community and delay a potential spread if we can. I thank you in advance for your support with this.

Public Health England have advised us that siblings must also go home in line with the family self-isolation rules.

Concern 2: Suspending face to face parent meetings and introducing telephone meetings

The government have advised us alongside the whole nation to enforce social distancing where we can. Telephone meetings have been encouraged to delay the spread of the virus. We have a number of vulnerable individuals within the school community and we must do what we can to keep everyone safe. We realise that not being able to have face to face meetings is an inconvenience, however, we are offering telephone appointments which can be freely requested



and we will continue to support everyone as best as we can in these circumstances. If you need to arrange a telephone parents' meeting for any reason, please contact the school office on 0116 2811963 and we will be happy to help.

The current guidance (18.03.20) from Public Health England around self-isolation is:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started.
- if you live with others and you are the first in the household to have symptoms of coronavirus, then then you must stay at home for 7days, but all other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- for anyone else in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- if you can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period
- if you cannot move vulnerable people out of your home, stay away from them as much as possible

- if you have coronavirus symptoms:
 - do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
 - you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home
 - testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home
 - plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home and consider what can be done for vulnerable people in the household
 - ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home
 - wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
 - if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

Again, I wish to thank you all for your support in these tough times. We will do our very best to continue to educate your children whilst prioritising the health and safety of everyone.

Yours sincerely

Vina Pankhania

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Headteacher