



DROPMORE INFANT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs G Streete

13th March 2020

Dear parents.

To keep you up to date with the latest information concerning Coronavirus, I am writing to you with further specific advice received from the Department of Education and the Director of Public Health. As a headteacher I receive these updates daily.

New guidance has been issued about staying at home for people with confirmed or possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection following the government's announcement yesterday that we are moving from the 'containment' phase to the 'delay' phase.

To prevent the spread of Coronavirus and protect others:

If you have the following symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), even if they are mild:

- **New continuous cough**
and / or
- **Temperature of over 37.8**

You should:

- Stay at home and not leave the house for 7 days from when the symptoms started.
 - You do not need to call NHS 111 if the symptoms are mild.
 - You will not be routinely tested unless you have risk factors relating to your age or medical history.
 - If you have serious symptoms you cannot manage at home you should use NHS 111 online
 - After 7 days of self-isolation, if you feel better and no longer have a high temperature you can return to your normal routine.
- ⇒ If you have not got better after 7 days and have not already sought medical advice, use NHS111 online before leaving home or letting visitors in.
- ⇒ Cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. A persistent cough alone does not mean someone must continue to stay at home for more than 7 days.



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The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves remains washing their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water and making sure you cough or sneeze into a tissue, put it in a bin and wash your hands. Please stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions as much as possible.

Actions we are already taking:

- The children at Dropmore have had several hand washing assemblies and we have hand washing posters in all toilets to remind them.
- Children are regularly washing their hands and all visitors are asked to wash their hands on arrival.
- We provide several boxes of tissues in all classrooms and general areas and remind children to throw these in the bin immediately.
- Our cleaning company has been instructed to prioritise deep cleaning surfaces and door handles to reduce the risks of germs spreading.

Starting Monday, we will ask pupils, students, staff and visitors to wash their hands:

- on arrival at school
- after using the toilet
- after breaks and sporting activities
- before eating any food, including snacks
- before leaving school

Contingency planning:

The Government has stated the following: Schools are advised not to close - this could do more harm than good but it is under review. It may change as the disease spreads. Schools should only close if advised to do so.

In the event of a school closure -Communication:

- We have remote access to our email and text system and will continue to use this to communicate with you. We will also update the website with the latest information. Please ensure we have your up to date contact information!
- You will be able to contact the school via email and we will endeavour to respond promptly.

In the event of a school closure - Pupils' learning:

- It is vital that the pupils continue their learning at home. If at all possible, try to replicate the school day at home by getting up at the same time, doing some reading, writing and maths in the morning and topic or project work in the afternoon.
- Your children will continue to have access to:
 - Discovery Education
 - Espresso Coding
 - Letterjoin
- Additional reading books will be sent home
- Work will be set for the children. Depending on the timescales given this will be sent home, emailed or put on Tapestry (for Reception).

Rest assured we will do what is best for our pupils and the nation by following the advice given by the Department of Education and Public Health. We will update you with any changes to the situation as soon as we have the official notification. In the meantime please be supportive and understanding of the schools decisions and focus on the advice above which should slow the spread of infection.

Further information and the latest updates can be found here:

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

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Streete', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mrs Streete
Headteacher