



11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### Information for Parents around School Precautions in the light of COVID19 Coronavirus

Dear Parents,

I know many of you will be following news around the coronavirus issues at national level and may be anxious about health concerns for your child and other family members. I would like to update you with the action we are taking in school to reassure you that sensible precautions are being taken to keep our children safe. As you know, we have many children here who are vulnerable due to complex medical conditions. We have been in contact with Hebden Green School and Dee Banks School to develop a common approach to our response to safeguard these vulnerable students. We have also taken advice from the LA around the very specific needs of these students. To this end, we are implementing some additional precautions which we will review again at Easter, unless there are further changes at national level.

Please be reassured that all of these processes are in place purely to reduce the risk of our vulnerable children coming into contact with the coronavirus. We receive daily bulletins from the DfE around coronavirus precautions in schools and have already implemented these. These include protocols around school cleaning and what to do if a child is ill in school. We have provided an additional medical room for any child who is taken ill with suspected coronavirus symptoms in school and this is deep cleaned daily. This is an example of a precautionary measure recommended by the DfE.

#### We are implementing the following until Easter as additional measures:

- We are cancelling non-essential meetings and staff training events to reduce the number of visitors on site. All visitors are required to comply with the hand-washing protocols on entry to the building and a reduction in volume of visitors is a simple, practical way of reducing risk. Please note this will not affect parents but you will be asked to wash your hands on entry to the building. For this reason, please be patient if Receptionists are escorting people for handwashing.
- We will not be taking children off-site for the next few weeks unless absolutely essential and Tumble Tots etc. will not take place until after Easter. Parents will be advised separately about the residential trip which may still take place.
- We are taking additional hygiene precautions within school such as use of disposable cups for children who don't have a drinks bottle, and around sensory items
- We have already implemented handwashing protocols but as most of our children need support with these, I want to reassure you this is being given a high priority. Children are washing their hands on entry



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

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to school, before lunch and snack, after sports activities and breaks, and before leaving school. All staff and visitors will be expected to follow a similar protocol and support the school in these measures.

I do want to stress that these are precautionary measures and there have been no reported cases or contacts in Dorin Park at this point so there is no need for parents to be alarmed. These procedures are being put in place to ensure our vulnerable children can continue to come to school safely. If you do have concerns about your child's medical needs, please do call and speak to us about your individual circumstances. We do understand for some parents this will be a worrying time and we will do our best to support you.

**We also ask for the support of our parents in the following areas to help safeguard our children.** Please when dropping off or collecting your children, come to the foyer area only and do not go further into the building. This is the normal area for drop off but we will now bring children here for pick up too. Early Years children will continue as normal with their protocols. We have issued the Public Health England leaflets to you all about what to do if you suspect coronavirus. If your child is ill with a more general condition and you are concerned whether they are fit for school, please call us, especially if they are immunosuppressed.

We hope these measures will allow our children to come to school and stay healthy and happy. Thank you all for your support in making sure they stay safe. And once again, if you have individual concerns, do call us to discuss them.

Many thanks,

Jane Hughes