



Governors' Vision

To grow an outstanding learning community where we embrace and nurture the individual
Everyone will have the confidence to embark upon future challenges
Inspiring all to achieve

Thursday 12th March 2020

Dear Parents,

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AS THIS CONTAINS NEW INFORMATION

With so much in the press currently around Covid-19 (Coronavirus), I thought it best to give you an update from school. All Headteachers in Horley met yesterday to discuss contingency and response plans and I just want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to keep up to speed with the latest government (Public Health England) advice and will share any new precautionary measures the school takes as, and when, necessary.

Earlier this week there were strong indications from government that further actions will be taken within the next days or weeks to reduce the risk of this particular coronavirus virus spreading. You may have seen that the Irish Government have made the decision to close schools and colleges. At this stage, the English Government have **not** informed us that they are intending to close schools, however, this is an ever-changing situation which is very new to everybody and as a result, we are putting plans into place to respond to a variety of scenarios.

We are currently in "Stage 2 – Prevention" (as of 15:00 on 12.03.2020) but we are very close to moving into "Stage 3 – Mitigate/ Delay". Within Stage 2, we have increased our cleaning regime and also our handwashing protocol. We are increasing the amount of times that the children are required to wash their hands (please see the appendix at the end of this letter).

Within Stage 3, we will have to make some difficult decisions. In preparation of this stage, some of the decisions we have already made are:

- Postponing Class Assemblies (penguins will go ahead this week as planned but Year 1 assemblies will be postponed until the summer term)
- Cancelling all training events for staff and parents which have external visitors (Emotion Coaching and other staff training included)
- Asking all volunteers to pause from coming into school as this again minimises any potential contraction/spread of the virus

Here are some common FAQs with regards to Covid-19 which you may find useful:

What do I do if someone in my close family, or someone my children have had close contact with is diagnosed with Covid-19 or has travelled from a country listed as a heightened risk?

Please follow the latest government advice. Make sure you tell NHS 111 that you have a child of school age. Please inform the school as soon as you can.

What do I do if the school tells me there is a proven case of Covid-19?

If there are any proven cases of Covid-19 affecting the school community (child, parent, carer, or staff member), you will be informed as soon as possible. As the current advice stands, schools are being told not to close without direct advice to do so from Public Health England. If there is a confirmed case, and the advice received by the school is to remain open, parents worried about any underlying medical issues that

already affect their family should make their own decision about sending children to school. Examples of situations where there may be greater concern include situations where:

- their child already has a significant health issue;
- there is little or no chance children can avoid, whilst attending daily school, coming into close contact with a vulnerable person (ie someone elderly and/or with significant health problems);
- there is a risk their child could spread the virus to someone looking after a vulnerable person.

We would ask parents in these circumstances to contact the school having contacted medical professionals and received further advice relating to their specific circumstances. We would also ask that you keep the school informed of the advice you have been given by medical professionals in assessing any risk to vulnerable people in your families. The school will not insist you send your child to school and, as long as medical advice has been sought, absence will be authorised in these cases.

How will the school deal with potential change to central government recommendations?

As indicated in the statement issued on Monday, it is likely that the government will ask people with cold or flu-like symptoms to stay at home. If and when this advice is issued, we will assess the implications for schools and communicate this as soon as we can.

Keeping up to speed with the latest advice

You will probably be aware that the advice concerning returners from Italy has now changed. Please keep yourselves informed of the latest travel advice here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Advice to schools is publicly available and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Further advice for other sectors can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-guidance-for-non-clinical-settings-and-the-public>

The Department for Education Coronavirus helpline is also experiencing a high volume of calls. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline but please be patient, you may be placed in a queue. Telephone: 0800 046 8687 (Monday – Friday 08:00 – 18:00)

School Closure

There is of course the possibility that we reach “Stage 5 – High Risk of Contamination” which would result in a full school closure. If there is a school closure in the coming weeks or months, we will endeavour to set work for children to complete at home so that disruption to their learning is minimised. Planning is already underway to this end.

Finally...

A plea for support... For many of us, this is an entirely new situation that we are dealing with. We are doing our best to make the right decision for the whole of our school community, taking advice from the DFE, Public Health England, the Local Authority and other nearby schools. Our resources will be stretched for some time so please direct any serious concerns to us but do please allow us good time to respond. Please do not publicise any concerns on social media – we are doing our very best to protect you and your children and appreciate all of your understanding and support.

Best wishes,



Jason Walters
Headteacher

Please wash your hands:



9.00 am when you first arrive
in the morning



11.00am – after playtime break



Before you eat (a snack or lunch)



After using the toilet



After coughing



After sneezing



After using the laptops



**USE SOAP TO
KILL GERMS**



1. Pull up your sleeves.



2. Turn on the tap.



3. Get your hands wet.



4. Put soap on your hands.



5. 



6. 



7. 



8. 



9. 



10. 



11. 



12. Wash the soap off of your hands.



13. Shake your hands in the sink.



14. Dry your hands.

Hand Hygiene