



West Cornforth Primary School
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Co. Durham
DL17 9HP

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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Coronavirus

I am writing to update you about the school's current position regarding Coronavirus.

We take the health and safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously, and, as such, we want to reassure you that we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE).

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

The risk is currently low in County Durham; however, to minimise the spread of any infection in school we are: reminding children about regular hand washing, using antibacterial cleaning products, displaying information posters, working with children to ensure high standard of cleanliness.

Domestic trips for children under 18 organised by educational settings

In the interest of health and safety, we have cancelled trips and sporting fixtures.

The Department for Education is not currently advising against domestic trips (residential and non-residential) for children under 18 organised by educational settings. However, educational settings should refresh their risk assessments to take into account the latest health advice and ensure measures are in place and agreed with parents in case children or adult supervisors believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 and exhibit symptoms that require self-isolation.

If circumstances arise where the school must close, we will inform you in our usual way: text, web update etc.

We are currently making plans for supporting your child's education, should a closure become necessary and will keep you informed on this.

Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school



- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then place the tissue in a bin and then wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home

If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

The most recent UK government advice (16.03.2020) is that anyone with a new continuous cough and a high temperature should self-isolate for fourteen days. This includes all members of the household.

As I mentioned, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, but this is being updated regularly in response to the changing situation. We will monitor and follow the national guidance as it is updated and would urge you to do the same.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your support

Yours sincerely,

J. Hodgson

