

16.3.2020

RE: Potential school closure due to the spread of coronavirus

Dear parents\carers,

I'm sure you are aware of the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the increase in the number of confirmed cases in the UK.

We take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously and, while there is currently no cause for concern at our school, we will keep you updated with any developments, including whether we will need to close. The precautions we are taking at present include:

- Extra handwashing and education around cleanliness following government guidelines.
- Extra risk assessments around visitors and visits

To this extent we are going to postpone-

- All parent evenings- week beginning 23.3.2020
- Year 1 and 2 trip to the Hancock museum
- All sports competitions
- The year one and two Mother's Day afternoon tea
- Class assemblies on Thursday until the end of term
- The Easter service in Church 2.4.2020

At present, we are happy to go ahead with the year four visit to Woodhorn tomorrow morning as the children will not be coming into contact with the public\ Woodhorn have sent us a risk assessment which is in line with government advice. The Easter Experience at St Cuthbert's church is at present still going ahead as the church group have risk assessed and changed activities to support government advice. As the government advice is constantly evolving we will continue to review.

Current guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) remains that schools stay open; however, it is possible that this advice may change as the spread of coronavirus

continues. If we are required to close our school, we will take the necessary steps to ensure you are informed of the closure and that the effect on pupils' education is limited.

In the event that we do close the school, you will be informed via letter, Facebook and the school website page and advised on how long we expect the closure to last. Any absent pupils will be phoned and letters will be posted home. Please check that you have provided us with your most up-to-date contact details to ensure you receive any correspondence regarding a closure. If you need to provide us with new details, please contact the school office on **01665 710388**

Arrangements for a school closure

Home learning

The staff have worked hard to outline the work that pupils in each year group should aim to complete at home. Each child will receive a home learning pack. It is a mixture of paper based learning and online work. If any family will struggle to complete this, please inform the class teacher or Mrs Bruce and we can support you.

If you need to contact the school or your child's class teacher for any reason, you can do so using the contact details that are provided with your child's home learning.

In the meantime, we will continue to implement additional health protection measures and follow the relevant advice issued by the DfE and PHE.

Unless your child has tested positive for coronavirus, they should attend school as usual. If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, please contact the school on **01665 710388** at the earliest opportunity.

The current advice if your child has the following symptoms:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Is to keep pupils at home for 7 days to minimise the spread of infection to others.

Please note that **we are not confirming that the school will close** – we want to reassure you that if this were to happen, we are fully prepared to take action.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Bruce

Headteacher