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Mr A Waterfield, Headteacher

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) precautions in school

I am writing to update you on the current situation regarding the Coronavirus as it applies to us here at school. At present, most people need to make no change to their normal daily lives and it is important to ensure that there is no panic or overreaction in school. We are taking measures in school to help prevent the spread of the virus as outlined in last week's newsletter. The school continues to follow Public Health England advice and are receiving regular updates from the Department for Education. In essence, we are following the same advice that has been given to the wider public.

Initial precautionary measures in school

- Assemblies delivered on the importance of regular and correct hand washing and a reminder of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to coughs and sneezes.
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly during the day
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are in place for use by all visitors on arrival and departure from school
- Hand sanitizers are available to students in each classroom as well as the normal soap and water in toilets
- Official posters about correct hand washing are in place around school
- We monitor and respond to government advice on a daily basis.

Preparation in case of future disruption to school

- The school is considering its response in the event of any future government instruction to instigate a partial or whole school closure
- In such a scenario, we will follow all government advice and consult with other schools and the local authority
- We will be talking to the older children about accessing potential online learning in the event of a closure
- Information about potential available resources for parents will be distributed in the future in the event of a closure
- **It may be necessary to use different members of staff to the usual class teachers, or to mix classes together, should school staff need to self-isolate in order to keep school open.**

I would be grateful if you could bear the following points in mind at this time:

- Continue to encourage your children to wash their hands carefully and regularly for 20 seconds with soap water or sanitizer, avoid touching their mouth nose or face as much as possible, and to



sneeze or cough into disposable tissues

● The advice to the general public is changing, sometimes on a daily basis. Please keep watching national news and Public Health England's website. **The latest advice is that if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. If your child develops symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from the onset of their symptoms.**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection. Current information suggests that there are still no tested cases of coronavirus in Northumberland yet.

I have attached a 'Know your Symptoms' diagram as it is extremely difficult to determine what different displayed symptoms could lead to.



The current advice given to schools if a case of coronavirus is suspected in our school (pupil or staff) is:

Useful websites for further information:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:
phone: 0800 046 8687
Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

"If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in a childcare or educational setting, no restrictions or special control measures are required while laboratory test results for COVID-19 are awaited. There is no need to close the setting or send other learners or staff home. As a precautionary measure, the NHS are currently testing a very large number of people who have travelled back from affected countries, the vast majority of whom test negative. Therefore, until the outcome of test results is known there is no action that staff members need to take apart from cleaning specific areas and disposing of waste.

Once the results arrive, those who test negative for COVID-19 will be advised individually about return to education.

I am sure the advice we receive will change in the days and weeks ahead. However, I will continue to communicate with you, either via Class Dojo, letters, our school website or Twitter account to keep you updated on any developments. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully, A Waterfield (Headteacher)

