



Happy children aiming high

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE AND SCHOOL PLAN

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are undoubtedly aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We are getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at New Hartley First School we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and local authority.

What's the current situation?

The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given.

All school functions continue to run as normal.

Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:

- a new, continuous cough and/or
- a temperature

If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by ringing school directly or via our school app. Due to the fact that we are having some ongoing issues with our new telephone system the best and most efficient way to contact us would be via the school app or by email.

We have taken the decision to cancel the upcoming year 4 trip to Craggside. At present any sporting events are still going ahead but we will update you accordingly of any cancellations.

Year 2 SATs are still scheduled to take place in May and this will remain the case unless you are informed otherwise.

We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

If a pupil is feeling ill on the school premises we will be erring on the side of caution and sending pupils home.

Our cleaning schedule will run as normal but additional wiping of hard surfaces will be carried out during the school day.

We will be continuing to enforce hand-washing at regular intervals and hand sanitisers will be available for use.

There will be in class and whole school assemblies for pupils about hygiene procedures and effective handwashing and we will be stressing the importance of these procedures for keeping themselves and others safe.

We are very aware we are dealing with young children and will do all we can to address any concerns or worries they may have in relation to the virus.

We will be asking all visitors to school to wash their hands on arrival.

What we need you to do

If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**. Please try, as far as is possible, to be contactable at all times.

Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.

Please reinforce all handwashing and hygiene messages with your child.

Please come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)

Please check that your child has access to the school website, School360, Rockstars and Mathseeds from home, and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we are well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point)

[What happens if the school has to close?](#)

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will:

Alert parents via the school app and post onto our website regarding any closure and subsequent reopening.

In the event of school closure we will communicate with you via the school app and class teachers will make work available via the class pages on our website for as long as is necessary but excluding the 2 weeks over Easter.

Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

[If you have any questions](#)

Please consult the:

School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue

[NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111

Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools

Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Keri Dowdney