

Monday , 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **Coronavirus Update**

I am contacting all parents to provide updated information about the school's plans to manage the risk of Coronavirus infection. The school has received detailed advice and support from Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT) and is following guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE). These organisations are providing daily updates for schools, and parents will understand that this advice is continuing to change in response to the local and national picture.

You can access information from the TPAT website [www.tpacademytrust.org](http://www.tpacademytrust.org) for information on Coronavirus which links government guidance.

At the present time, the Delay phase is active nationally, and we have been told by the DfE that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) case of COVID-19 unless advised to do so. Should this happen, our emergency school closure procedures will be used, and parents will be informed by email/Seesaw message and via our website. Please help us to maintain good communication with parents by ensuring we have up to date contact details for you. This is very important at this time.

Public Health England advice about reducing the risk of infection focuses on hand hygiene.

The current government guidance is that to help prevent the spreading any respiratory virus you and your children should:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water 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 sick
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- 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 trust are sourcing industrial hand cleanser dispensers for each school which should arrive in the school shortly. The key symptoms of Coronavirus infection are a cough, difficulty in breathing, a temperature (above 38 degrees C). Pupils or staff exhibiting these symptoms should contact NHS 111 for advice and follow the advice with regards to self-isolation. At the current time, the advice from the DfE is that the absence of pupils who are required to self-isolate by Public Health England will be authorised. Pupils who are not required to self-isolate should continue to attend school and parents requiring further advice should contact the school.

We would ask all parents for their support in ensuring that, if their child is required to self-isolate, they follow this advice and inform the school.

Should there be a confirmed case of Coronavirus, then the school will inform Public Health England (who will provide further advice), TPAT, Governors and the Local Authority. We will also inform other local schools who we work closely with, and who may have families linked to the confirmed case. We will also, importantly, inform parents so that our families are kept updated.

I hope this information is helpful to our parents and families. I am aware that we have children in our school, and family members who have serious underlying health conditions: parents with individual concerns should contact NHS 111 for advice and keep the school informed about any specific concerns affecting our children. Essential to our schools is that parents and pupils follow Public Health England advice with regards to self-isolation and, in the interest of the health of our school community, parents should know that we will not admit a student or member of staff to our school site where this would contravene Public Health England advice.

The following are the routines we are currently using to minimise the risk.

### **Hand washing:**

We have shared routines for and continue to remind children about how to effectively wash their hands.

Our school is well stocked with soap and hot water and we have routines in place for the children to wash their hands:

- On arrival at school
- Before and after breaktime
- Before and after lunchtime
- Once more during the afternoon

### **Canteen:**

Our canteen has always maintained the highest standards of hygiene. In addition we currently:

- Hand children their own cutlery individually so they don't use a shared cutlery dispenser
- Ensure, where necessary, help with cutting food is done at the serving hatch before it is served to children to prevent staff cutting food for multiple children
- Drinking cups are only handled by the children using them and children are reminded to not share
- Have stopped the use of child helpers at the salad bar

### **Drinking water:**

We have turned off the shared water fountain in the playground. Children are encouraged to use their own drinking water bottle in class and at break time and not to share. Please note that we no longer receive cheaper drinking water bottles so would encourage you to supply your child with a drinking bottle for use in school.

As I am sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. Our first priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in our school. Now more than ever, this remains our primary focus.

This is an entirely unprecedented situation and we are following official advice from the government and the NHS. This advice is being added to on a daily basis and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published. This official advice will underpin all the actions we take.

Yours Sincerely



C P Roynon



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