



**Mrs R Cook**  
Cotsford Primary School  
Third Street  
Horden  
Peterlee  
SR8 4EH  
DFES Number: 8402532

Telephone: 0191 5864660  
Email: [p2532.admin@durhamlearning.net](mailto:p2532.admin@durhamlearning.net)

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parent/carers,

### **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:

- ensuring frequent and thorough handwashing,
- providing antibacterial products for all visitors coming into school,
- delivering specific hygiene lessons in class,
- enforcing a strict no return to school until 48hrs after symptoms have stopped for all sickness, diarrhoea etc,
- thinking carefully about the types of trips and events that we do and making changes as necessary,
- increased cleaning of touch points e.g. handles, taps, table surfaces,
- reducing / stopping activities in which contact can be made e.g. hand shaking, passing things around during circle time
- reviewing the situation daily

If circumstances arise where the school must close, we will inform you in our usual way through Dojo, or text and updates will be available on the school website.

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 (12.03.2020) is that anyone with a new continuous cough and / or a high temperature should self-isolate for seven days. Your child's class teacher has already prepared a pack of activities which your child could complete at home if self-isolating, but feeling well.

If you or your children have returned from abroad in the last 14 days, please follow the link below for advice about category 1 and 2 countries.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

### **Symptoms to look out for**

If you've returned from any of the category 1 or 2 areas or countries, look out for the following symptoms:

Cough

Difficulty in breathing

Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher)

- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses. Please see the link below for information about self-isolation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>

- Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

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 school.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

**R. Cook**