

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

In light of the rapidly changing scene with the current pandemic around the COVID-19 illness, we would like to outline steps we are taking in school as a reassurance to parents of hygiene measures and also outline the guidance we've been given and is readily available on Government Websites.

We are ensuring as a school that cleaning and hygiene practice remains a priority. Examples of this include:

- Classrooms being disinfected daily, including tables, chairs and surfaces
- Lunch tables and chairs disinfected between uses over dinner time
- Children are reminded daily about hand washing and cough/sneezing guidance to ensure tissues or sleeves are used to catch a cough and a sneeze and hands are washed thoroughly for 20 seconds several times during the day.
- The children are educated on the spread of germs and diseases. (Not just in light of Coronavirus but in discussion around preventing the spread of all viruses including common colds, chicken pox, stomach upset, infections etc.)
- Unnecessary trips and events have been cancelled
- Assemblies have been cancelled - the guidance is currently around crowds of 500+ and although we do not hit that number, it makes sense to take this precaution at this time.

We would like to remind all parents and carers of current NHS and Government advice around self-isolation. The advice is detailed below:

Stay at home if you have coronavirus symptoms

If any member of your immediate family have either of the main coronavirus symptoms listed below, then all the family must self-isolate:

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



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Seek medical advice by calling 111, only if the person presenting with these symptoms becomes very unwell and unable to continue in normal activities.

Self-isolation does involve not leaving the house for shops or visiting (or receiving visits from friends). Order online shopping or telephone a friend to collect essentials and leave these outside of your house for you to collect after they have left.

If the above symptoms present and the need to self-isolate arises, when sharing a house with other people including family members, the advice given is as follows:

- try to keep at least 2 metres (3 steps) from other people in your home, particularly older people or those with long-term health conditions
- ask friends and family and delivery services to deliver things like food shopping and medicines – but avoid contact with them
- sleep alone, if possible
- regularly wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- try to stay away from older people and those with long-term health conditions
- drink plenty of water and take everyday painkillers, such as paracetamol and ibuprofen, to help with your symptoms
- clean the bathroom after every use (if shared)
- Do not use shared towels, cups, cutlery etc., but keep these separate from those for general use.

Children staying off school without symptoms present cannot be given an authorised absence, unless exceptional circumstances exist behind this decision.

We will continue to monitor the changing situation and will follow all advice given. It is important for our children to remain educated on this situation in a balanced way and we are keen to ensure we can put appropriate measures in place to protect the health and wellbeing of us all, while maintain the standards of education for our children. Please be aware that any child or staff member showing these symptoms will be sent home immediately and requested to self-isolate. This will inevitably affect children, parents and staff and could therefore impact upon the day to day running of the school. A plan is in place within school to deal with such circumstances and would be communicated to parents should we find ourselves in that situation. Teachers are working extremely hard on this in the event that closure is enforced.

It is imperative that we ensure the teaching staff look after themselves and maintain their health. The staff team are going to be a key factor in the sustainability of the school during this challenging period, enabling it to operate effectively and safely - we need to look after them! Therefore, teachers will not be planning and preparing work for those children in self-isolation at this time as this will add to their workload.

Children, if feeling well, can continue with reading at home, use TTRockstars etc. To support you during this period, Twinkl, a company who support teachers in providing high quality learning resources, is offering every parent in England access to all Twinkl resources with a One Month Ultimate Membership, totally free of charge. Setting this up is really easy to do - go to www.twinkl.co.uk/offer and enter the code UKTWINKLHELPS



We greatly appreciate the support of all our school community and I hope that by working together we will continue to minimise the risks and impact within our immediate community. Please could I ask that we all take a common sense and pragmatic approach to the current situation. We will not put your child at risk in anyway and hopefully you can see the level of vigilance we are employing to protect everyone.

If you do have any queries or concerns about this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact school who will advise you the best we can, but remember we do not always have all the answers.

With kindest regards,



Mrs J Narraway

Head Teacher



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