

# NORTHSTEAD NEWS

Newsletter 15

March 2020

Coronavirus updates

Dear parents and carers,

Following last night's advice from the Government we now have a number of staff off who have had to self-isolate either because they are unwell, have an underlying health condition or because a member of their family is unwell.

At present, we are able to cover all classes so are able to remain fully open. However if more staff have to self-isolate it may be necessary to partially close the school in the next few days. We will assess this daily and will let you know as soon as possible by email, class dojo, school website and Yorkshire Coast Radio.

To minimise the potential spread of the virus we are taking the following actions;

- All Extra Curricular Clubs and Activities are cancelled.
- All children are to wash their hands on arrival at school and several times throughout the day.
- If a child displays symptoms during the day, we will contact you to collect them as soon as possible.

**The Breakfast Club and After School Club will continue to run as long as we have enough staff.**

You can help us by following the Governments advice Today, the Department for Education and Public Health England have issued updated guidance for education settings on COVID-19.

What you need to know:

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home
- clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products
- supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

Decisions on future advice to education or children's social care settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

### **Recording school pupil absences**

Where a pupil is in self-isolation, in accordance with latest information and advice from Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England, the pupil should be recorded as unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances in the attendance register. Code Y (Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) should be used in this instance.

If a pupil does not attend school, despite the school operating as usual and the pupil is not self-isolating, they should be marked as absent. It is for headteachers to determine whether or not the absence is authorised depending on the individual circumstances.

Where a pupil cannot attend school due to illness, as normally would happen, the pupil should be recorded as absent in the attendance register and the school will authorise the absence. Code I (Illness) should be used in this instance.

### **Handwashing advice**

The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

### **Department for Education coronavirus helpline**

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), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

As both a Headteacher and a parent, I sincerely appreciate these are very uncertain and deeply worrying times.

We will continue to update you via email, class dojo and our school website.

Take care,

Mr Lidgley