



WOODFIELD SCHOOL

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Headteacher:
Mrs Gill Waceba

13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

CORONAVIRUS - LOOKING AFTER OUR PUPILS & STAFF

I am writing to reassure you that we are taking all appropriate measures to look after our pupils and staff in the light of the current Coronavirus infection. We have daily contact with the Local Authority, Government Advice and Public Health England (PHE) and receive daily updates. We are committed to following all recommendations. Due to the speed at which information is being gathered, there are times when the advice on NHS111, PHE and Gov.uk appears to be conflicting. At all times, we will follow the most rigorous of any recommendations to help maintain the health and well-being of our pupils and staff.

At present we do not have any confirmed or suspected cases of Coronavirus amongst our staff or pupils. If this changes we will take immediate action following advice from the Local Authority, Government Advice and Public Health England. It is really important that you let us know if your child, or any of your family, is suspected or confirmed as having Coronavirus, and that they do not attend school. It is also important for us to know if your child, or any of your immediate family, has been in contact with anyone with Coronavirus. Please share this information with us via the school office or in a note placed in an envelope marked for the attention of the Headteacher.

Current understanding is that being at school does not, in itself, put pupils at greater risk. However, the fact that a significant number of people are in a relatively confined space means that the risk of infection may be considered to be greater. We also have to take into account that we have a significant number of pupils with medical and health needs who are extremely vulnerable to infection; and a significant number of pupils who need support with their personal care routines, including support when coughing/sneezing/blowing nose.

Following Government updated advice given yesterday, we are requesting that any staff or pupils who display symptoms of Coronavirus infection (COVID- 19); however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms started. After 7 days, if they feel better and no longer have a high temperature, they can return to their normal routine. The most common symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- High Temperature

With this in mind we have reviewed our procedures for looking after pupils who present with any flu like symptoms and will be sending home any pupils who have a high temperature and/or are coughing or sneezing. If we have higher than normal staff absence it may be necessary for us to close classes or the whole school. If this is the case we will try to give you as much notice as possible. If, in order to delay the spread of the virus and push it later in the year, the Government chooses to put school closures in place, we will let you know as soon as we are made aware.

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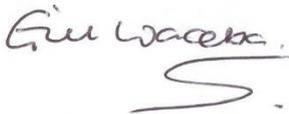
This is a rapidly changing situation and we cannot predict how it will develop over the next few days or weeks. Please ensure that the email addresses and mobile numbers we have for you are still current so that we can keep you updated and contact you if your child needs to go home because they are not well, or if school needs to close.

We attach, for your information, the latest Government Guidance regarding staying at home and also the advice on the Coronavirus for places of education.

If you choose to keep your child off school because of the risk of the current Coronavirus situation please be assured that you will not be penalised for their non-attendance.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office or the School Nurse on her direct line 01442 221367.

Yours sincerely,



Gill Waceba
Headteacher

