Dear Parents/Carers,

**Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

We are sure that you are all aware the HM Government yesterday [announced](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-government-announces-moving-out-of-contain-phase-and-into-delay) changes to its strategy for minimising viral spread.

The updated guidance introduces important changes that parents and school have to follow. These changes will create some disruption to our normal way of life, however, as was outlined yesterday they are important to ensure the safety of the public as a whole, especially those who are most vulnerable.

If your child or a person living in their home has **either one of:**

* **a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)**
* **a new continuous cough**

then they, **and everyone in their household,** should stay at home for **fourteen** days and avoid all but essential contact with others (self-isolation), to slow the spread of the infection. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. This is because it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community. For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period. During isolation, you are not to leave the house.

You are encouraged not to call NHS 111, but to check online for advice. If symptoms worsen during home isolation, or are no better after 7 days, contact NHS 111 online at [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk/). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Any pupils or staff who present with either of the above symptoms whilst in school will be isolated and, in the case of pupils, we will contact you to collect them as soon as possible. They should not return for 14 days.

If you phone to say your child is going to be absent from school can we ask you to be specific about what is wrong with your son/daughter so we can log pupil numbers with suspected Coronavirus.

In addition to the measures outlined above, we have cancelled pupil visits, such as to museums in Newcastle and will be minimising any non-essential, external visitors (including our regular volunteers), in line with the Governments social distancing strategy This will, unfortunately, mean cancelling our Mothers’ Day and Easter coffee mornings.

 We will also be cancelling external sports coaching, such as rugby on Mondays, including the after-school club. **There will be no swimming going forward.**

**We will continue with Sats revision classes each Tuesday (Sorry Year 6!) and Horrid Henry Club, as usual, as they are staff run, as well as the Thursday after-school club.**

We will continue to follow DfE and Public Health England advice and keep you informed. This guidance obviously also applies to staff and we may have to run school with fewer staff present whilst they self-isolate for 14 days. We will monitor this situation to maintain pupil and staff safety.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and ask for your understanding and compliance with the new measures announced yesterday, as we recognise that they may cause significant disruption.

Thank you to our family who are returning from Asia, who are going beyond Government advice, as they have not been to a Category 1 country, and isolating from school until they pass the symptom risk stage. We are looking forward to having them back with us safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

Diane Lakey (Headteacher)