



Hipsburn Primary School, Lesbury, ALNWICK, Northumberland. NE66 3PX

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Headteacher Mr Kevin Moloney

18.3.20

Dear Parents,

I am writing to share with you some specific advice with regard to the COVID-19 outbreak and our plans for the coming weeks. As I'm sure you will appreciate, it is hard to predict what the impact on schools might be at this stage, but we are taking steps to plan as best we can for future events and would appreciate your support and understanding. Please feel free to share and discuss this letter with your child in an age appropriate way.

### Action we are taking now

#### Raising Awareness

The most important thing we can all do at present is to follow the clear guidance from Public Health England. This is constantly evolving so it is really important for everyone to check the guidelines regularly: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

At present, schools have been told to remain open even if we have children and staff who are self-isolating as a precautionary measure.

#### Hand Washing

Public Health England advice is that washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds is highly effective as a preventative measure. You may find this NHS video useful to share with your child.

<https://youtube/bQCP7waTRWU>

We promote, at every opportunity, the importance of good hygiene by reminding children throughout the day to wash hands before they come to school, when they arrive, when they go to the toilet and before and after they have eaten. We were delighted to welcome two of our parents, Robyn Sykes and Chloe Sim, who are both NHS Nurses, into school today to deliver informative (and fun!) hand washing talks and demonstrations for all the pupils. We really appreciate their valuable time.

### Contingency Planning

As the outbreak develops, we will be following advice from the Department for Education and the Government. This might, at some point, involve temporarily closing the school on a full/partial basis to our pupils and possibly our staff as well. If this happens please:

- check our [website](#) daily and follow our facebook page for updates (We can access these remotely)

#### Pupil Learning

It is really important that if school closes the children continue to work. Whilst there is no substitute for being in a classroom with a teacher we are looking for ways to set work remotely for our pupils. This may be through School360, google classroom, the school website and Tapestry. We are currently checking that children in Reception to Year 6 have up to date log in information for School360, this will be emailed to you shortly.

You can help us by doing the following:

- Reiterating to year 6 children that effective revision is really important between now and the SATs this summer.
- Making sure that your child has access to the internet so they can safely use resources provided by the school at home.
- Ideally, accessing online learning will be on a home computer, laptop or tablet.





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- There are a variety of websites which we may suggest and youtube clips which may prove useful - please support safe internet access at all times.
- Communication between school and home may be online during this time - please ensure appropriate online behaviour with high levels of respect.
- Making sure that your child has somewhere quiet to work. In the event of an extended closure, we ask that parents try to ensure conditions at home are conducive to good quality learning each day. We will provide more details regarding a daily structure for distance learning if and when necessary.

#### School Trips and Visits

We will continue to monitor official advice and inform parents of cancellations as soon as possible. Please be aware that cancellations may be at short notice and beyond our control. Parents will be refunded for cancelled trips.

#### Staff Absence

It is possible that school may need to operate with fewer staff due to absences. Government action to 'relax' the law concerning class sizes does apply to children KS1 and Early Years - with the safety of children being paramount.

#### Further Information and Avoiding Anxiety

Clearly this is a developing situation and has the potential to create real anxiety amongst children.

You know your child best, but together we should:

- Do our best not to sensationalise or overdramatise the situation
- Steer children away from some of the news coverage and social media channels
- Stick to known facts rather than speculation
- Avoid passing on our own concerns to our children.
- Look out for and protect our most vulnerable.

We hope you find this information useful and we will do our best to support the care and education of the children at Hipsburn Primary as well as their families and our staff.

Kind regards,

Mr K. Moloney  
Headteacher

