



Monday 9th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus COVID-19 Update

This letter is to reassure you that we are continuing to follow DFE advice in relation to Coronavirus COVID-19. The DFE continue to maintain that personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19, especially regular handwashing. They are also recommending that anyone with coughs and sneezes use a tissue to be able to 'catch it, bin it, kill it.'

All staff have been directed to specifically teach children how to wash their hands properly and we are using the 'Happy Birthday' song sung TWICE to show how long the handwashing process should take. This is a good tip for using at home too. All children have access to hot water and soap dispensers. The DFE confirm that the most effective way to prevent the spread of disease is through regular washing of hands with **hot water and soap** for 20 seconds or more. The length of time it takes to sing the 'Happy Birthday' song twice!

Hand sanitisers are useful but only when soap and water are NOT available. If, in the unlikely event, soap and water became unavailable we have disinfecting wipes available in school for staff to supervise. We do not, however, foresee having to use these for handwashing. Children should not be in possession of hand sanitisers brought from home for personal use as not all of our children are able to open and apply the sanitiser in a controlled manner. We cannot supervise the personal use of hand sanitiser and ensure it is used correctly, also that it is not applied to lips, eyes, or inside noses or indeed applied to other children. In addition, hand sanitisers contain alcohol so are not permitted to be brought into school for unsupervised use.

Hand sanitisers increase the risk of children using sanitiser rather than handwashing which can be less effective.

Teachers will be reminding children frequently that washing with soap and water is always better and ensuring this is enabled in school as necessary. They will be explaining that hand sanitisers are a back-up to be used only if soap and water are not available.

Boris Johnson has today chaired an emergency Cobra meeting to decide whether to bring in measures to delay the spread of coronavirus in the UK.

The DFE are updating me every day and I will immediately inform you of any change to current advice.

I do hope this letter reassures you about your children's safety in school and our commitment to minimising the risk and spreading of infection.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. C Hurst BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH NLE
Headteacher