

16th March 2020

Dear parents/carers

CORONAVIRUS – UPDATE & SCHOOL PLAN

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all families, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at Luddenden CE School we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and local authority.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions, apart from special assemblies, continue to run as normal including after-school clubs.
- Open the Book (Monday) and Gold Book assemblies (Friday) have been cancelled until further notice
- **Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell** – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by phone or email
- Additional school activities such as trips have been cancelled
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- Public Health posters have been displayed around school
- Staff will be kept informed about government recommendations and updates
- If a child begins to show symptoms at school, they will be isolated whilst they wait to be collected
- Handwashing at regular intervals has been introduced throughout the day for staff and children
- Visitors are required to wash hands on arrival
- Age appropriate information about hygiene has been, and will continue to be, shared in assemblies and classrooms

What we need you to do

- Ensure children wash their hands before they come to school and when they get home
- If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via phone or email
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It is a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [Healthy Minds](#) and [YoungMinds](#) have practical steps older children and adults can take to help with anxiety.
- If we ask you to, come and collect your child straight away (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school. In either case, we'll:

- Alert parents to closure, by text, letter and our Website.
- Organise for activities for home learning to be uploaded to the class pages of the school website

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. **There are currently no plans to close.**

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

shThank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Hoyle
Headteacher