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13th March 2020

Updated Information on Coronavirus and School Actions

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you all to give you an update on the school's current position in reference to the Coronavirus and the steps that we are taking to ensure the safety of all of our pupils, staff and members of our community. Please be aware that the school and our immediate local community currently have no confirmed or suspected cases.

As you will be aware, the Government announced yesterday that the country has moved to the Delay Phase but stated that **at this current time all schools will remain open.**

I would just like to reassure parents and carers of the actions that school are currently taking and the plans that we have for any disruption in schooling or enforced closure in the near future.

Hygiene and Infection Control

We have been proactive in reinforcing high levels of hygiene and infection control. Children are monitored with routine handwashing and have been explicitly taught good techniques and strategies to avoid the spread of germs. Each class has access to tissues and hand sanitiser. **Please note that if you do not want your child using hand sanitiser due to allergies, you must inform the school office.** Our cleaning staff have been diligent in ensuring that school is deep cleaned and will work this weekend for additional cleaning to take place. All staff are using 70% alcohol wipes to ensure that touch point areas are routinely cleaned. Our pupils will not have access to sand, playdough, iPads, keyboards or other resources that can easily transport germs. The water cooler is out of service and children can access fresh water in their classroom from disposable cups. Lunch and snack times are closely monitored in school and children are thoroughly supervised to ensure high level of hygiene.

Limiting Social Contact

As you are aware we are very tactile as a school, we often ask children to work in pairs and in close proximity on the carpet or during activities such as PE and have a number of visits and visitors throughout the day. We are taking a number of precautionary measure to limit this where we can. We will not be having assemblies or whole school gatherings during this time. Class teachers are limiting the occasions where children are asked to work together in close proximity, such as gymnastics, circle time. We are postponing any occasions where we are asking people to gather in groups; for example, training events for staff, workshops and events for families in school and planned school trips. Friends of Eastway have cancelled all current plans for this term. Visitors in to school are being limited to only those that are essential and will need to abide by our strict regulations during this time.

Illness and Absence Procedures

We are advising that if any child is unwell, high temperature above 37.8 degrees or has a new cough, they are kept off school. You must inform the school office or leave a message on our school absence line. We are following the Public Health guidelines on this and all staff are having the same message. If your child becomes unwell during the school day we will contact you to collect them. We have electronic thermometers in school and will monitor any high temperatures. This is why it is so important that we have at least three contact numbers for you in case of any such emergency.

Disruption to Schooling

There may be disruption to schooling in the coming weeks, even if there is no enforced closure. We may be affected by staff shortages so the structure of lessons and some classes could become affected, impact to learning will be minimised during this time. In the event of kitchen closure we may ask you provide packed lunches. As ever, we will endeavour to ensure that your child has access to the highest quality of education and that they have access to the broad and rich curriculum that we provide.

School Closure

We are being proactive in our contingency plans, should there be a decision to close schools nationally or if we suffer high levels of staff absence. In the event of a school closure we will inform parents via our text message service, Facebook and our school website. It is paramount that we have up to date contact details for your child, should we need to contact you. Staff will still be completing work off site when school is closed and we will continue to provide your child with daily education, Monday to Friday. We are working together to develop an infrastructure that will ensure our pupils have access to daily learning. It will be parents/carers responsibility to ensure that all work set is completed at home during this time. We will make use of our online platforms to set learning tasks and daily lessons for the children. In the event of school closure, this information pack will be sent home with every child.

As I'm sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. My first priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in our school. Now more than ever, this remains our primary focus. I am aware that you may be feeling anxious or have additional questions regarding this situation. I will update parents/carers when we have further information using Facebook and our School Website. As you can imagine we are under pressure to ensure that everything is currently in place and that we are taking the correct action, therefore the school office and my staff will be under additional pressures. Please do not contact the school unless it is absolutely essential. All information that you need will be on our school website and Facebook page.

This is an entirely unprecedented situation and we are following official advice from the government and the NHS. This advice is being added to on a daily basis and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published. This official advice will underpin all the actions we take. Further guidance and information can be found on the links on our school website.

Yours sincerely,

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Mrs Emily Morris
Headteacher