**Covid-19 Update:**

**Dear Parent/Carer**

I know that as parents, we will be feeling unease around global events. With this in mind, we would try to clarify school’s point of view based on some regularly asked questions:

**Should I send my child to school?**

Yes – we continue as normal whilst maintaining high-levels of personal hygiene: washing hands regularly and carefully and utilising the hand sanitiser upon entering the building in the reception foyer, using, and carefully disposing of, tissues if they have blown their noses.

**When should I not send my child in to school?**

If your child has any of the following symptoms, they should remain at home for 14 days:

* A new continuous cough and/or
* A temperature
* If they fall into the ‘High Risk’ Group- Heart Condition, Asthma or COPD, Diabetes or Chemotherapy drugs.
* Please come and collect your child straight away if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new continuous cough)

Parents/carers are advised to check the latest Government advice which can be found at **https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus** and if your child shows any symptoms **call 111.**

To the best of our knowledge we have no cases of Coronavirus at WLCHShowever, we are continuing to monitor the situation closely and the current advice from Public Health England is that schools remain open. Guidance for all pupils is to increase hygiene levels and routines.

**What will happen if school does need to close?**

We are putting plans in place to try to ensure that pupils receive as good an education as possible should the need arise. With this in mind, please ensure that you are set-up or have access to receive email and ParentMail.

**How can we help at home?**

You know your own child best, but together we should:

Do our best not to sensationalise the issue.

Steer our children away from some of the news coverage and certainly away from social media channels. Talk to our children but stick to known facts rather than speculation and avoiding passing on our own concerns/ anxieties to our pupils. We have Social Stories in school that support our pupils at home. Please contact your child’s class teacher if this is something that you feel may be helpful.

**What about Vulnerable children?**

Our advice to children and staff with suppressed immune systems or specific ongoing health conditions is to seek medical advice. They and their families will know best how to stay safe taking into account advice from the NHS 111 service and Government sources such as Public Health England.

**What are the school’s plans over the coming weeks?**

Because the situation changes daily we cannot predict how things will unfold over the coming weeks but we will try to make sure that we communicate effectively to everyone in our community.

Currently the message is one of ‘business as usual’ whilst we have sufficient staff numbers on site and remaining vigilant and doing what we can to ensure that any action we take is reasonable, proportionate and based on the latest Government advice.

**What we are doing in school to protect pupils and staff**

Daily cleaning schedules including all door handles etc cleaned with Ant Bacterial cleaners

Deep-cleans in areas with higher use

Large gatherings such as whole school assemblies and after school events have been cancelled to reduce the potential for contamination

Pupils reminded to wash their hands regularly

Ant- Bacterial hand sanitiser in the entrance foyer

Lessons in class to improve hygiene and dealing with Anxieties

Anti-Bacterial hand sanitiser provided for all staff’s personal use

**How we will communicate with Parents/carers**

We will send messages to Parents/carers via ParentMail -please check your messages regularly.

There will be updates via:

* ParentMail
* School website
* PTA Facebook page

**Department For Education Helpline**

A Department for Education helpline to answer questions about Coronavirus for staff, parents and young people is available:

* Phone: **0800 046 8687.**
* Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)
* Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Yours sincerely

Andrew Grant - Acting Headteacher

Please complete the following form below and return to school ASAP, preferably using the Parent Mail Form

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Pupil Name** | | |
| **We have access to** | **Yes** | **No** |
| Computer |  |  |
| Internet |  |  |
| Printer |  |  |
| Parent Mail |  |  |
| Mobile Phone |  |  |