



Newham Bridge Primary School
Cayton Drive, Acklam
Middlesbrough
TS5 7NJ

Headteacher: B Hewitt-Best

Tel: 01642 816884
Email: contact@newhambridge.org.uk

Website: www.newhambridge.co.uk
Twitter: @newhambridge

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following our recent communications and guidelines received from the Government (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>), I am writing to you with further specific advice about the Coronavirus outbreak and our plans for the coming weeks and months. As I am sure you will understand, it is very difficult to predict what might happen, but we have taken steps in school to plan, as best as we can, for future events and would appreciate your support and understanding.

Action we are taking now

Raising Awareness

During class sessions and assemblies, children are being reminded about the virus and the steps they could take to help prevent or delay its spread; primarily following NHS and Government advice and washing their hands regularly.

Hand Sanitisers/Hand Washing

Although there is a shortage of sanitiser, we have a significant amount of cleaning materials, hand wash and tissues/toilet roll in school. There are a number of hand sanitiser points in school and these are regularly used by staff and visitors.

General Cleaning

We will be prioritising certain areas of the building for more regular cleaning, particularly the dining halls and toilets. We have liaised with our cleaning contractors and intend to pay additional attention to all contact surfaces, applying sanitiser spray and chlorine based cleaning products at regular intervals when physically possible.

Contingency Planning

The Government is planning for a range of future scenarios, once of which includes a temporary school closure. This section of the letter sets out some of our plans.

School Closure

Schools in Italy closed for 2 weeks with no prior notice given. Should this happen to us, please note the following:

- We will provide up to date information through Parent Mail, our website and Twitter:
 - website: www.newhambridge.co.uk
- If there are concerns in the event of a closure, parents are asked to email: contact@newhambridge.org.uk
- Essential business functions will operate remotely to ensure the school is ready to return to normal business as soon as appropriate.

After School Clubs

All Spring Term after school clubs will **stop on Friday 20th March** – earlier than intended. Summer term clubs will commence after Easter.

School Trips

Should a trip or activity need to be cancelled, we will contact you to confirm that this is the case. Communication will be vital in all circumstances, therefore, even if school is closed, we will make contact with all parents.

Parent consultations/Reports

We will be postponing our Parent Consultation/Report evening until after the Easter break.





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Staff Absence

It is possible that for a period of time, the school will be open but a higher than usual number of staff may be absent. We will do everything to remain open, however, I reserve the right to open partially for some year groups or have larger than usual class sizes. Obviously, your child's safety is a priority so we would always give notice of this – it would be a last resort.

Information about the virus (taken from Government Guidance)

This information has already been supplied but is worth repeating. A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020. The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2-14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, they have not been infected. The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. **There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – very few cases have been reported in children.**

Further Advice for Parents

As I said earlier, this is a fast-moving situation. At the time of writing this letter, the risk level is deemed low to moderate although for parents/carers wishing to keep up to date with the latest situation, the following links may prove helpful.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

There will be a small number of pupils, staff and your own family members with suppressed immune systems. You know best how you can stay safe, but we will support all these groups as best we can. Please take advice from 111 and Government websites.

Finally, a personal request for your continued support. It is impossible to keep everyone happy with any decision regarding school closure or other significant interventions. Our resources may be stretched for some time so please try to avoid any complaints or criticism, particularly on social media. Should a crisis situation arise, we will continue to do our very best to protect you and your children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Hewitt-Best
Headteacher





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