



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Excellence and Enjoyment

A Values-based Education School

13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Response to the Coronavirus

I wanted to update you on the actions we are taking to help limit the potential impact that this virus may have on our school and our wider community. As you can imagine, staff have responded quickly and professionally in their commitment to protect our school, and especially those individuals who are the most vulnerable.

Following on from Public Health England advice, the school has taken the following actions for infection control:

- An increased cleaning programme has been in place for some weeks. This includes sanitising door handles before and after school, and also an increased sanitising of tables and chairs in all areas, as well as sanitising of glass, computers and all high-use surfaces.
- All children have been reminded, both in assembly and by their individual teachers, of good hygiene and when to wash hands (e.g. after using the toilet, before eating, whenever they come in from play, after blowing their nose and disposing of the tissues in the bin etc).
- Increased numbers of soap dispensers have been installed in the school.
- All visitors to school are asked to use hand sanitiser before they sign in.
- Sadly, we are no longer shaking hands as we greet visitors to the school. Thank you for your understanding that no disrespect is intended by this decision.

Thank you for encouraging good infection control practices at home. As always, we have been amazed by your children's knowledge about the right things to do, and how sensible they have been to follow instructions. I am aware of how supportive and pro-active everyone has been to keep the school as safe as possible.

Your support

- Handcreams. We appreciate that some children have developed minor skin irritations as a result of the increase in hand washing. If your child needs to access hand creams, then please ensure these are named and handed to the class teacher in order to avoid any cross-contamination. If your child has a prescribed skin cream, then please hand this to Ms Barron in the office, so that it can be signed in and a staff member made aware of the medical instructions.
- Please ensure we have your most up-to-date contact details (mobile number and email) if these have changed recently.
- Please follow Public Health England advice at home.
- Please make sure that named water bottles are used in school.

Self-Isolation

The most recent advice from the Government states that anyone with a **new persistent cough, flu-like symptoms or high temperature** is now advised to self-isolate for seven days.

If you have been in contact with any one who tells you that they have been tested positive for the virus, please contact the school so that we can discuss this with you. Our aim is to follow Government advice carefully, and together draw up a sensible response.



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School Closure

The Prime Minister has clearly stated that schools should **not** close at this time. Should new advice be given, you will be notified as soon as possible.

In the event of closure, work will be provided for your child to access. This is likely to be through digital platforms which the children currently use in school. Your child would be able to use these if they have access to an i-pad, tablet, desktop computer or similar. If you do not have internet access, or anticipate this may cause a difficulty, please let us know.

Parent Evening

We respectfully ask that all visitors apply an alcohol gel (which will be provided) when entering the school. An online questionnaire will be sent out for completion rather than our traditional paper based options.

Celebration Assemblies

Our assembly numbers with parents are generally below 150. Therefore our Celebration Assembly will still go ahead as usual. However, if you feel you may have any of the symptoms identified we respectfully ask that you consider the potential risk of attending. I fully appreciate this will be a very difficult choice for parents and carers, but ask because we have some staff and pupils for whom this virus would have a significant impact.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

If you have any queries, concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



MARIAN HAIMES

Head teacher: Mrs M Haines



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