



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and school community for their support and understanding during our recent need to share updates and information relating to the Coronavirus. This is a challenging time for everyone and, as a school, we are doing our utmost to ensure we are continuing to engage with the rapidly changing guidance and are putting in measures to support our whole community.

It is important to note that we still do not have any confirmed Coronavirus cases within school. There are members of the school community who have chosen to self-isolate as a precautionary measure and we are continuing to ask anyone, staff and pupils, who have either a new continuous cough or a high temperature to remain at home for the advised 7-day period. We greatly appreciate the support of those parents who have already reacted to this new guidance and have informed us of their child's absence. Obviously, due to the exceptional circumstances of the current situation, all related absences during this period will be authorised.

In addition to this, we are also looking at ways in which we can put in additional measures to keep everyone as safe as we can and to limit non-essential activity as a way to help with the current situation. We would very much appreciate your help with putting the following in to place:

- Please can everyone (staff, parents and pupils) ensure they have washed their hands thoroughly before leaving for school in the morning.
- Please can all parents drop their children at the classroom (KS1) or cloakroom doors (KS2) and refrain from entering the school building with the children. Staff from the Early Years unit will be on hand at the white corridor door to meet the children. If you have any messages you wish to pass on, you are welcome to email the office and your message will be forwarded to the class teacher. If your message is urgent, you are welcome to pass this on to the office in person.
- Where possible, we would ask that any parents do email in rather than visiting the school office. The office can become very crowded, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day and increased use of email, or telephone communication, would help to alleviate this.
- Water bottles will be sent home at the end of every day. Please can they be washed at home ready to return for the next day.

As mentioned in Friday's update, we also feel that it is prudent to limit our involvement in external activities and trips as a purely precautionary measure. All Spring term school trips (including swimming and gymnastics) have been postponed for the time being and all parental meetings (PTA meeting, Parent's evenings etc) have also been put on hold. We will also not be participating in any external sporting events at the moment, especially as most events have already been cancelled. We have not yet heard further as to whether the UDance festival at the Sands Centre will be going ahead but will inform you as soon as we hear back from the organisers.

We have also made the decision to cancel all after school clubs for the moment.

It is important that we all work together to be vigilant and the impact on our school community can be minimised if guidance is followed. The school is doing their best to adapt and work with the pressures that the situation brings and we do appreciate your patience at this time. New guidance is being released regularly so we will continue to send updates home as things change.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey
Headteacher