



BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL **TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2020**

Dear Parents,

Re: Coronavirus

I am writing to update you about the school's current position regarding Coronavirus.

We take the health and safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously, and, as such, we want to reassure you that we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

To minimise the spread of any infection in school we are:

- Ensuring children and staff are washing hands at various points throughout the day and continually reiterating the key messages to the children about the importance of handwashing.
- Continuing to follow advice from Durham County Council with regard to cleaning.
- Cancelling the following until further notice:
 - whole school assemblies
 - coffee afternoons
 - parent-teacher meetings (we can arrange telephone calls where necessary)
 - off-site educational visits
 - visitors to school from outside agencies

Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then place the tissue in a bin and then wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home

Stay at home if you have coronavirus symptoms

Stay at home if you have either:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.

How long to stay at home if you have symptoms

Anyone with symptoms should stay at home for at least 7 days.

If you live with other people, they should stay at home for at least 14 days, to avoid spreading the infection outside the home.

After 14 days, anyone you live with who does not have symptoms can return to their normal routine.

But, if anyone in your home gets symptoms, they should stay at home for 7 days from the day their symptoms start. Even if it means they're at home for longer than 14 days.

If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.

If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

If you still have symptoms after 7 days

After 7 days, if you no longer have a high temperature you can return to your normal routine.

If you still have a high temperature, stay at home until your temperature returns to normal.

If you still have a cough after 7 days, but your temperature is normal, you do not need to continue staying at home. A cough can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

As I mentioned, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, but this is being updated regularly in response to the changing situation. We will monitor and follow the national guidance as it is updated and would urge you to do the same.

If circumstances arise where the school must close, we will inform you in our usual way via text messages and the school website.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time.

Mr W. Kirtley (Headteacher)