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Head Teacher: Mr S Whelerton  
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs J Boyd

15.03.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

In these unprecedented times, I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you and notify you of the actions that have taken place and will continue to do so, along with how you can help and support us to do this, whilst we deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

We will keep you as updated as much as possible with the latest developments. We receive regular emails from the Department for Education, as the situation is constantly changing. Should we need to communicate any updates with you, we will do so via text message and via the school's Twitter and Facebook pages. If you are unable to access these pages or have not been receiving text messages, please notify the school office asap.

Whilst we are trying to keep things normal for the children, we have been taking precautions in school. As we said in our latest Newsletter, everyone must play their part in preventing spread of the virus by practicing excellent personal hygiene. In partnership with our staff, please ask your child to follow these steps:

- Use tissues to catch a cough or sneeze, then bin the tissue and wash hands.
- Wash hands thoroughly and often, particularly after using public transport, before leaving home, upon arrival at school, after using the toilet, after breaks and sporting activities, before food preparation, before eating any food and before leaving school.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with un-washed hands.

**We are not health experts, so please do not contact school for advice. The latest guidance is that you need to 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

**Please look at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> for further advice.**

We are planning what we will be able to put into place for the children to do at home should the government decide that all schools will close. We are trying to make this accessible to all of the children and whilst the teachers will be recommending work to do online, we are currently planning for the children to bring home an exercise book which they will be expected to use to complete the tasks and return to school for marking when we re-open. The nursery children will bring home a list of fun tasks to do.



We are also looking into how, and if, we can provide meals for the children who are in receipt of free school meals and will text parents and carers of the children who qualify with an update should the need arise.

We know that Year 6 children and their parents will be concerned about the impact of the coronavirus on the SATS due to take place in May. We have not received any information from the Department of Education regarding SATS, we will update you if there are any changes.

We have taken the precaution of postponing planned events in the coming weeks. We are postponing the Parents' Evenings planned for tomorrow and Tuesday-16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March. Teachers will hand over mid-year reports at the end of the day tomorrow. We are unable to send these reports home with the children, so a copy of the report will be available to collect from the school office by a parent/carer for those children who walk home. This can be collected anytime this week, unless we are instructed to close.

The Mother's Day Celebration for Early Years on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March is cancelled, it is also extremely unlikely that we will be able to go ahead with our Easter Service on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March or the Early Years Easter Egg Hunt on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

We will be taking advice as to whether we go ahead with the Year 6 trip to Beamish Museum this Thursday (19<sup>th</sup> March). We will make a decision and let parents know either way by the end of the day on Tuesday.

During this rapidly changing time, we will endeavour to keep everything running as smoothly as possible in school. Please be aware that in the event of low staffing levels, we may not be able to run all after-school clubs. We will update you in the event of any changes.

I hope that you understand the reasons for the adjustments mentioned above and that you and your family will do everything you can to support them. The current pandemic is something which none of us have ever faced before. In the meantime, please continue to follow the directives from the government and the NHS/Public Health England, check our text messages and social media pages for further updates.

Kind regards,

S. Whelerton

