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Dear Parents/Carers

17 March 2020

Coronavirus Update as at 11.03.2020

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the school's position with the developing situation regarding the Coronavirus. At present we are monitoring the situation daily through the DFE, Public Health England and Government websites and following advice given.

As you are probably aware COBRA met last week and have announced that we are now in the delay stage of the virus. They have introduced the following new measures:

- Everyone should avoid gatherings and crowded places, such as pubs, clubs and theatres
- Everyone should work from home if they can
- All "unnecessary" visits to friends and relatives in care homes should cease
- If one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days
- Those people should, if possible, avoid leaving the house "even to buy food or essentials" - but they may leave the house "for exercise and, in that case, at a safe distance from others"
- People should only use the NHS "where we really need to" - and can reduce the burden on workers by getting advice on the NHS website where possible

This will help to protect others in your community while you are infectious. In addition;

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

You do not need to contact NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

- There will not be testing for those self-isolating with mild symptoms. For further information please read: COVID-19: stay at home guidance

Additional Details:

- stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible
- sleep alone, if that is possible
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water
- stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible
- you do not need to call NHS111

Currently, there is no planned date by the Government to close schools, although this measure is identified as an option if required. As a consequence of this, we are planning two phases of strategy. The first phase being prevention and the second details what the school will do in the event of closures due to high incidences of infection or lack of staff.

In-School Procedures

The Government has advised we continue to follow their previous advice regarding hand washing. This involves children, staff, volunteers and visitors being asked to wash their hands:

- before leaving home;

- on arrival at school;
- after using the toilet;
- after breaks and sporting activities;
- before food preparation;
- before eating any food, including snacks;
- before leaving school

In addition;

- To avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- To avoid close contact with people who are unwell;
- To clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- The official advice for dealing with a suspected case of Coronavirus is;
- If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111.
- Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

We are discussing the situation with the pupils in a way that they are able to understand and encouraging frequent hand washing through a challenge to wash off the ink stamp we place on their hand at the start of the day. We will also be frequently using hand sanitiser. The Church Council has presented a Collective Worship to inform pupils too and everyone is being encouraged to share any worries.

As a precaution, we have cancelled many training events, visitors to or visits away from school in order to reduce the amount of contact we have from other people. Many of these events have been cancelled by the organisers too. We ask that you do the same.

Potential School Closures

We are taking all necessary steps to manage the situation and whilst there are no current proposals to close schools, we are working together with the other local school Headteachers to implement a plan of how best to support your children in the eventuality of school closures.

If and when the school closes, the following plan will be implemented:

- Packs of schoolwork are being prepared for each child containing worksheets and pencils;
- Activities have been prepared and will be uploaded on the school website by teachers. This will occur on a regular basis;
- Other apps such as Purple Mash, Times Table Rock Stars Maths, Sumdog will continue;
- Teachers will be available via their school emails during school hours (9am-3.30pm):

Mrs Teasdale – cteadale@gillamoor.n-yorks.sch.uk

Mrs Smith – emma.smith@gillamoor.n-yorks.sch.uk

Miss Pope – charlotte.pope@gillamoor.n-yorks.sch.uk

Mrs Hayes – headteacher@gillamoor.n-yorks.sch.uk

We will of course keep you informed of any updates, especially in the lead up to the Easter holidays. Should you have any further questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Andrea Hayes
Headteacher