



Head Teacher: Mrs. E. Watson
Email: avenueprimary@mcschools.org.uk
Tel: 01642 318510
Web: www.theavenueprimaryschool.co.uk

The Avenue Primary School, The Avenue,
Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0AG

13th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following our recent communications and guidelines received from the government (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>), I am writing to you with further specific advice about the coronavirus outbreak and our contingency plans. There is currently no cause for concern at the school.

We take the health and safety of our students and staff very seriously therefore we are sharing guidance from Public Health on steps you should be taking and also what we are doing at school to prevent the spread of infection. I am sure you will understand it is very difficult to predict what might happen, but we have taken steps in school to plan as best as we can for future events and we would appreciate your support and understanding.

Actions we are taking now:

Raising Awareness

During Lessons and assemblies children are being reminded about the steps they can take to help prevent or delay the spread of infection: primarily following NHS and Government advice and washing their hands regularly. We would appreciate your support in reinforcing this with your children.

Hand Sanitisers/Hand Washing

Although there is a shortage of sanitiser, we have a significant amount of cleaning materials, hand wash and tissues/toilet roll in school. There are a range of sanitiser points in school and these are regularly used by staff, visitors and children.

General Cleaning

Building on the already rigorous standards of cleaning across the school, which ensure regular cleaning of door handles, light switches, desks and other surfaces, we have instigated additional steps to disinfect hard surfaces and toilets to a more stringent standard.

Contingency Planning

The Government is planning for a range of future scenarios, one of which includes a temporary school closure. This section of the letter set out some of our plans.

School Closure

Following the COBRA meeting yesterday, the Prime Minister announced that schools will remain open for the time being. It is clear that this guidance may change in the future. Schools in Italy closed for 2 weeks with no prior notice given. Should this happen to us, please note the following:



**JAMES COOK
LEARNING TRUST**



Head Teacher: Mrs. E. Watson
Email: avenueprimary@mcschools.org.uk
Tel: 01642 318510
Web: www.theavenueprimaryschool.co.uk

The Avenue Primary School, The Avenue,
Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0AG

- We will provide up to date information through social media channels, our school website and our parent text messaging system. Our social media channels are:
Twitter- @AvenuePrimaryuk Website- <https://www.theavenueprimaryschool.co.uk/>
- If there are concerns in the event of a closure, parents are asked to email schools at the following addresses:
avenueprimary@mcschools.org.uk
- Essential business functions will operate remotely to ensure the school is ready to return to normal business as soon as appropriate.
- We have prepared a work pack for each child in case of closure. Please only complete if we are closed.
- Teachers will want to use Marvellous Me to communicate with parents in the event of a closure. I do ask that ALL parents ensure that they have access to this system. Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log in details.
- If parents need to communicate with individual teachers during closure, this can be done through the school email address which will be monitored on a daily basis.

Educational Visits

We have cancelled any educational visits next week which involve bus travel. We will review this again at the end of next week. Refunds for any trips next week will be processed next week.

Staff Attendance

Following the national guidance issued yesterday around 7 day isolation, it is possible that for a period of time, the school will open but a higher than usual number of staff may be absent. We will do everything we possibly can to remain open, but the health and safety of students and staff is a priority.

Information about the virus (taken from the Government Guidance)

This information has already been supplied but is worth repeating. A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020. The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2-14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, they have not been infected. The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- Persistent cough
- Difficulty Breathing
- Fever



Head Teacher: Mrs. E. Watson
Email: avenueprimary@mcschools.org.uk
Tel: 01642 318510
Web: www.theavenueprimaryschool.co.uk

The Avenue Primary School, The Avenue,
Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0AG

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups - very few cases have been reported in children.

Further Advice to parents

As I said earlier, this is a fast-moving situation. At the time of writing this letter, the risk level is deemed moderate although for parents/carers wishing to keep up to date with the latest situation, the following links may prove helpful:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>
<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

There will be a small number of students, staff and your own family members with suppressed immune systems. You know best how you can stay safe, but we will support all these groups as best we can. Please take advice from 111 and government websites.

It is impossible to keep all stakeholders happy with any decision regarding school closure or other significant interventions. Our resources may be limited for some time: as such your support to avoid any complaints or criticism, particularly on social media would be very much welcomed. Should a crisis situation arise, we will continue to do our very best to protect our James Cook Learning Trust Family and the wider community.

Yours Sincerely

Emma Watson
Head Teacher