

Hartsfield JMI School

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Coronavirus Update – 13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday, the Government announced that we are moving from the Contain phase of the coronavirus action plan and into the Delay phase, in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Current advice is that no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. Schools should therefore remain open. The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce will be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

The Government have stated the following advice applying to children, parents and staff;

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

What this means for our School Community:

1. We will continue to re-enforce and practice good hygiene routines. At school the children are washing their hands on arrival and throughout the day and especially before eating and during lessons as needed. Please encourage this practice at home too.



2. If you, or your child, display any of the aforementioned symptoms, please keep them, siblings and yourself away from school for seven days – the absence will be authorised.
Previous travel or contact is no longer relevant- all experiencing those symptoms, however mild, should remain isolated.
3. Inform the school immediately should you or any member of your family/close community fall ill and receive a positive result for coronavirus or if you have any reason to believe that there is a risk of contamination at our school. This will allow us to respond as required in the interests of the wider community. **Please note that we currently have no confirmed cases in our school.**

The next few weeks and possibly months will be a challenging period for us all. We are keen to ensure that our pupils get the best possible education, but these are unprecedented times and we ask for your understanding on all matters. This is a rapidly changing situation and we cannot predict how it will develop over the next few days, weeks or months.

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows: **Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)**

Full details of each stage in the current government action plan can be found here.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

Thank you for your continued support

Philippa Smith

Philippa Smith (Mrs)

Headteacher

