

Dear Parents and Carers

After discussion with the governors last night we will be taking a cautious but sensible approach to the coronavirus issue, which is in line with our approach to any potential contagious outbreaks in school. We have stocked up on soaps and tissues which will be freely available for the children to use as necessary. If your child comes down with a cold however, we may need to ask you to provide additional tissues for them. If your child has asthma you may find it useful to read this information from Asthma UK <https://www.asthma.org.uk/about/media/news/Coronavirus/>

It would be helpful if you could ensure your children wash their hands, for 20 seconds with soap, just before they leave the house in the morning. We will ask the children to wash their hands again when they arrive at school and at other key times during the day.

We will have regular times each day when door handles, finger plates and hand rails, which are touched by numerous hands every day, will be cleaned.

We have a stock of alcohol based hand sanitisers which will be used by visitors and in an emergency in school. I do not want children using these on numerous occasions during the day and, with the hand washing regime in place, this will not be necessary. There are some associated risks with children under 12 using alcohol based hand sanitisers, including eye and mouth irritation, vomiting, coughs and stomach pains. Please do not send your children in with regular hand gel, as this is not effective against the virus and I do not want the children to have free access to their own alcohol based hand gels for the reasons above. If it is found in school it will be looked after by an adult and returned to you at the end of the day with a request not to send it in again. If we have to use the hand sanitiser in school, it will be under close adult supervision.

It is not my intention to close the school unless we are directed to do so by Public Health England, however if we are in a situation where too many staff are off sick and we cannot guarantee your children are safe in school, I would consult with the governors and make a decision day by day. This would be a position of last resort and will not be taken lightly as I am very aware of the impact this would have on every family in the school community. I would, of course, keep you updated about what is happening via text and/or email.

We are currently going about our work as we do every day of the school year and will continue to go on visits as planned. If the situation changes I will be consulting with any organisers, e.g. for the choir's Musicality concert, and we will make a decision closer to the time when we have as much information as possible. You will, of course, then have the opportunity to make your own decision about your child's attendance at these events.

If you, or anyone in your family, feels unwell and you suspect the coronavirus you should consult <https://111.nhs.uk/> for online advice about your symptoms or call NHS111. You should not go to the doctors surgery as this may result in them being closed for a number of hours, as happened in Southway yesterday.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact me via 01752 778796 or [widewell.office@horizonmat.com](mailto:widewell.office@horizonmat.com) The DfE have also launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Kind regards

Claire Prynne