

12th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As the situation around COVID – 19 escalates nationally, schools are preparing for the local situation to change and the number of confirmed cases to increase. Should this happen, it is possible that there will be an impact on schools being able to stay open.

The country is currently in the 'containment' phase but as the number of confirmed cases increases, it is likely that this will move to the 'delay' phase. Delay is where 'social distancing' measures will be considered, which could include restrictions on public gatherings above a certain number of people.

Schools are being guided by the experts and we have been receiving daily updates from DfE and Public Health England (PHE). If our school or other schools locally are required to close, it will be on the advice we receive from PHE who will also determine how long the school will remain closed. If the school does close, we have plans in place to provide work for the children using our school website. The website will also be the primary source of communication during a school closure, so please make yourselves familiar with the relevant sections on www.woodloes.com.

In the meantime, we are trying to keep things as normal as possible for the children, whilst taking additional steps to avoid the transmission of any infection. We have had assemblies about hand washing, how to cough and sneeze into your elbow, catch it, bin it, kill it and avoiding touching your face with your hands. Additionally, we have extra gel soaps and sanitisers in every sink area on top of the usual use of hand sanitiser we use every day when we go into the hall for lunch. Staff have also been briefed to take extra steps to ensure the children are washing their hands frequently during the day.

We continue to be sensible and pragmatic about the situation and are keen to avoid disruption as much as possible. However, the health and safety of the children, staff and the wider community has to be our priority and we have to play our part in preventing the spread of the virus.

If you would like to know more, the Department of Education have a helpline up and running to answer questions about COVID19 related to education: Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

And further information can be found by following the link below:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/03/04/coronavirus-covid-19-5-things-you-can-do-to-protect-yourself-and-your-community/>

Thank you in advance for your understanding. I appreciate how unsettling this is, but please be reassured that we are working alongside other agencies to ensure appropriate plans are in place.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Mitchell (Head Teacher)