



Dear Parent / Carer,

## Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

**This is a rapidly changing situation and the information given below is up to date as of today (16<sup>th</sup> March 2020).**

We'd like to reassure you that at Leadgate Primary School we take the health and safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously, and, as such, we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE), updates available on our school website News section.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

### What's the current situation?

The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given

All school functions continue to run as normal this includes breakfast club and after school clubs (which finish this week)

Pupils **should attend** unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:

- a new, continuous cough and/or
- a temperature (37.8 degrees and above)

If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by ringing the main school office for each site or leaving a voicemail.

The risk is currently low in County Durham, however to minimise the spread of any infection in school we are:

Increasing handwashing routines across both sites, using antibacterial hand washes and or soap, placed DfE posters around both sites to remind all staff, visitors and pupils of the necessary steps to take, worked with the children to ensure high standard of cleanliness including repeat assemblies on both sites, maintaining daily deep cleaning routines and from today we have cancelled all off site training to increase social distancing for all staff, currently booked visits up to Easter have all been cancelled, from today there will be no class learning assemblies until further notice to minimise all events and contacts beyond our immediate school community. Sporting events will be assessed on an individual basis dependent on setting and contact. We will update you later this week on whether Parents evenings will continue – however should you need to speak to the class teacher please don't hesitate to call.

As you may be aware, we have the following events planned:

- Year 6 visit to Northumberland University – already cancelled
- Year 5 visit to Consett Academy visit Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – to be cancelled
- Easter Church Service with Our Lady and St Josephs, Brooms school – to be cancelled
- Both site Easter assemblies Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> (lower school) / Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (upper School) – will be cancelled

### What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email or telephone.

- › Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.
- › Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).
- › Ask that you refrain from coming into the building unless absolutely necessary – including collection and drop off times and always sanitise on entry.

### **Prevent the spread of infection**

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- › Wash your hands often – with soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- › Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- › Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- › If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- › Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then place the tissue in a bin and then wash your hands
- › Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- › If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

The most recent UK government advice (12.03.2020) is that anyone with a new continuous cough and a high temperature should self-isolate for seven days.

### **What happens if the school has to close?**

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we'll:

- › Alert parents to the closure, via our school app, text message and a post on our website
- › We will let parents know when the school will be reopened by using the same communications
- › We are currently making plans for supporting your child's education should a closure become necessary and will keep you informed on this including access to all online platforms we currently use in school alongside providing tasks and work on our school website in each class section.

**Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.**

As I mentioned, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, but this is being updated regularly in response to the changing situation. We will monitor and follow the national guidance as it is updated and would urge you to do the same.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact both myself and deputies on each site.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely



Mr M A Watson

Head teacher , Leadgate Primary School