



16<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Update Letter : March 2020

## Sport Relief: Thank you

First of all, thank you for your support and fund-raising for Sport Relief on Friday. As a school we walked over 2,000 kilometres! And it was lovely that so many parents joined us to walk and raise money too.

## Health and Safety Update: Coronavirus

The main reason for writing today is to update you on our provision for dealing with the increasingly difficult situation with the Coronavirus. Please refresh yourselves re: information about the Coronavirus (Covid-19) – government guidance is here:

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

We continue to follow DfE and Public Health guidelines and the coronavirus infection and the DfE control measures information posters are on display across the school.

**How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?**

**If you need to cough or sneeze**

- Catch it** with a tissue
- Bin it**
- Kill it** by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

**You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser**

- After breaks & sport activities**
- Before cooking & eating**
- SCHOOL ETC.** On arrival at any childcare or educational setting
- After using the toilet**
- Before leaving home**

✓ Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

✓ Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles

✓ If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels

Whilst you should still not be overly worried about the possibility of children contracting the virus at school, we have put some additional preventative measures:

- Additional cleaning – door handles, keyboards, telephones etc. are being cleaned daily.
- Hand-sanitisers are available throughout the school (Most of the hand-sanitiser on site is alcohol-free at the moment. We have ordered an alternative sanitizer and we are awaiting delivery.)
- Providing adequate facilities for handwashing, instructing students to wash their hands regularly, and offering anti-bacterial hand gel to staff and visitors.
- Additional measures for ICT – Students are being asked to wash their hands with soap and water immediately before entering the computer room and touching a computer.
- Additional measures for Music – Keyboards are being disinfected daily and students are washing hands before and after lessons.



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs H Donnellan

Acting Assistant Headteacher / DSL: Mrs J Davies

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- Revised arrangements for assemblies and tests to avoid large groups of students meeting together in enclosed spaces.

If you have any questions about Coronavirus, the Department for Education has set up a helpline for queries relating to education and children's social care.

- Phone: 0800 046 8687
- Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

We have also put together information for students about the virus and we have discussed handwashing and preventative measures. You might wish to have a look at the following useful links:

- Newsround – Questions and answers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2rQV34fr-M>
- Why we wash our hands - Soap makes germs go away: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djxmuDz8c3s>
- <https://www.facebook.com/officialtomfletcher/videos/657576818340583/>
- Hand wash song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEq>
- Hand wash posters: <https://washyourlyrics.com/>

#### Attendance and Self-Isolation:

The most recent advice given states that students should continue to attend school regularly. Absences will be classed as unauthorised if students do not attend school due to concerns about the coronavirus. Anyone with a new persistent cough, flu-like symptoms or high temperature is, however, now advised to self-isolate for seven days, as part of the UK government's move to the "delay" phase of its plan to tackle coronavirus. Self-isolation that does not match this criteria will not be authorised. Please contact us immediately if your child develops symptoms.

#### School Closure:

The Prime Minister has announced that schools are **not** to close at this time. If our school has to close, we will inform you as soon as we are able to do so. We are currently planning how we will continue to provide some educational provision if we have to close the school. This will mainly involve using 'Show My Homework' and WEDUC for communication. It would be helpful if you could complete the brief communication survey (attached as a separate sheet). This will enable us to ensure that the most appropriate and accessible form of communication is used if we are instructed to close the school.



Ironically, our value for the month is 'Endurance'! When we decided on the values for the year, we intended this to link with Sport Relief – not having to endure and be tested by such challenging circumstances.

May you all stay well, may you be assured of our support and thank you for your continued help and understanding.

With all best wishes,

MG Simpson  
Headteacher

## Emergency Closure and Access

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section A

Are there any changes to Emergency contacts since November 2019?

CIRCLE THE MOST APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

NO (go to Section B)

YES (please complete the information in this section)

Primary Parental contact:

Name:

Phone number:

Email address:

Home address:

### Section B

In the event of an extended school closure, our main form of communication will be electronic – through email, WEDUC and Show My Homework.

Do you and the children in your household have access to a computer, WIFI and/or printer?

NO

YES

### Section C

Any other needs or perceived difficulties if the school were to close?

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_