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Mrs. J Stratford – Headteacher

Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter aims to update you on our preparations within school in response to the spread of Coronavirus (Covid 19) as of 1.45pm on 16.3.20. Updates from the Department for Education, Knowsley Council and Public Health England have been used as a basis for our planning. We recognise that people will understandably be concerned at this time, therefore we just want to reassure you that the school is monitoring the situation closely, is in regular contact with relevant authorities and has comprehensive plans in place.

Currently, there are no school closures in Knowsley. The Local Authority will continue to advise schools of actions in line with Government recommendations.

Day to Day Response

We are encouraging all of our staff and children to follow Public Health guidance and keep high levels of personal hygiene; this includes making sure that we are directing children/students and staff to wash their hands:

- before leaving home
- on arrival at school
- after using the toilet
- after breaks and sporting activities
- before food preparation
- before eating any food, including snacks
- before leaving school

Children can bring hand sanitisers to school with them to use throughout the day if they wish but please be assured that we have plenty of hand wash available in school for children to use.

Our standard cleaning processes will continue but are also taking extra precautions within our cleaning arrangements and making sure that frequent contact points such as door handles are cleaned more regularly. Our cleaning plans are in place to provide an enhanced or deep clean quickly when required. We have talked to the children about the virus and how it is spread so that they can make sensible choices and follow the Public Health Guidance and ensure they carry tissues to 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it.'

Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- **new** continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – and it is important to remember that very few cases have been reported in children so far.

If you or a family member present with these symptoms the advice of health professionals is to self-isolate for 7 days, Guidance on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

After 7 days, if anyone is still unwell, then seek medical advice from NHS online <https://111.nhs.uk> . If you cannot access the online advice, then ring NHS 111. If symptoms worsen during your self-isolation, seek prompt medical advice.

If children feel better after 7 days and no longer have a temperature, they can return to school. The guidance does say that a cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared.

Reporting Absence:

Please report your child's absence by phoning the school office and speaking to a member of staff or leaving a message on the answer phone. Please do not use Dojo for absence reporting.

Absences in relation to suspected Corona virus or self isolation will not lead to fixed term penalty notices.

Communication

Information will be shared with parents/carers via Parent Text, Dojo, the school APP or the school website. Please make sure you complete the data sheet and return to school as soon as possible. This will enable us to update your phone number to receive Parent text. Also make sure you have signed up for Class Dojo.

Website - www.huytonwithrobyce.co.uk

School APP – Visit your APP store and search for ‘Our Schools APP’ – type in L36 9TF to find our APP.

Class Dojo – to sign up for Class Dojo you need an individual code which is available from the class teacher. These will be coming home with your child.

ALL information parents/carers will need in relation to changes at school will be posted on official channels. Do not rely on other sources such as non school related social media to inform your decision making

Planning in Place:

The Council is working to ensure that any local response to COVID-19 is co-ordinated and services to schools are included in this planning. Contingency plans are in place for Council services to schools and we are receiving regular updates in relation to this.

An important part of our preparations are making sure that we have contingency plans for a variety of scenarios, including a temporary closure if instructed to do so by Public Health England. We have made the decision to cancel any non-essential visits to school and staff have been instructed to not attend any non-essential meetings offsite.

Currently, we have planned for 3 separate scenarios:

1. Instruction from Government to close for a specified period of time
School has prepared packs of work and a letter outlining access to online learning which would be sent out if the government made the decision to close school.
2. Instruction to implement social distancing and limit the contact of groups of people
Should this option be implemented. Details of which year groups would be in school would be communicated at that point. Other year groups not in school would receive the packs as detailed above.
3. Staff Absence levels cause need for closure
Should this option be implemented. Details of which year groups would be in school would be communicated at that point. Other year groups not in school would receive the packs as detailed above.

Children Accessing Alternative Provision

If your child currently accesses Alternative Provision (AP) then we will be liaising with each individual AP establishment to ensure you are kept informed regarding current arrangements. Parents will be contacted individually with any necessary updates.

Forthcoming Events at School:

Parents' Evenings for March will not now take place. We will keep you informed as to alternative dates.

We are also reviewing all trips, events, fixtures and visits and will update as and when decisions are made. At present this will be on a case by case basis.

We hope that implementing such plans will not be necessary but we will always make decisions with the needs, health and welfare of children first.

Thank you for your continued support and your understanding in this matter.

Yours faithfully

J. Stratford

Headteacher