



Woodthorpe Community Primary School
Lewis Road
Sheffield
S13 8DA

Tel: 0114 239 9167
Fax: 0114 264 2628
Email: enquiries@woodthorpe.sheffield.sch.uk
Headteacher: Dave Smith
Chair of Governors: Grant Walker
www.woodthorpeprimary.co.uk

16/03/2020

City Community Learning Trust

Coronavirus (Covid – 19) – UPDATE – Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

Current Situation in School

At present, the situation remains unchanged. We have some children absent from school who have shown symptoms of the virus however **none have been given a confirmed diagnosis**. Some of these children are in self-isolation under the guidance of the NHS, other have taken the decision themselves as is their choice.

The advice given by Public Health and the Department for Education remains the same. Schools should remain open, encourage children to follow a good hygiene regime and be vigilant for any symptoms, which may arise. We have also increased the frequency that children are being asked to wash their hands and begun a more rigorous routine, above recommended guidelines, of surfaces, tablets and other learning materials being cleaned to aid in potential infection control.

Communication to and from Parents / Carers

As stated, **we currently have no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in school**. Should this change we will be notified by Public Health England and advised as to how we should proceed. I will of course keep parents and carers briefed of all the **facts** as the situation unfolds. May I ask that you also recognise the importance of sharing information in a responsible and measured manner? Many families have been unnecessarily alarmed following inaccurate comments made on various forms of social media.

Should you be advised to or choose to self isolate, please inform school of this decision. We then ask that you follow the guidance for self isolation as outlined on the links below.

Contingency Plans for Extended Absence / School Closure

We are working hard to ensure that we are prepared to support children in their learning should they be in self-isolation or if we are instructed to close the school. At present, I would direct parents and carers to our website / app and ask them to use the Knowledge Organisers to support their child. These include a number of facts they could learn, several words they should be able to define and spell and a series of activities you can carry out at home. As the situation develops, staff will develop further learning resources and these will be uploaded to the website / app and also made available as hard copies.

We feel we must remind everyone we are following the guidelines that everyone is being asked to adhere to. Should you feel these are not sufficient, while we will listen to your opinion, you should direct your frustrations to your local politician or doctor who is better placed to field your concerns. We will not tolerate parents and carers verbally abusing staff who are going through the same emotions and issues that everyone is facing. We pride ourselves at Woodthorpe in providing a safe and nurturing environment for your child to learn, we cannot affect government policy but do understand your frustrations when it comes to information around the safety of everyone in our society.



Sources of Further Information

Updates on COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<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>

The Department for Education has 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 0468687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Thanks to the Staff

May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their commitment and professionalism in this difficult time. All of them share your anxieties around the virus, indeed some are managing serious underlying health problems, yet they remain dedicated to the safety and education of your children. Please remember, we are all doing our best in uncertain times and will always put the needs of your children first.

If you have any further questions, please use the links above or, if necessary, contact me at school.

Regards,



Dave Smith – Headteacher

