

Broomhaugh Church of England First School

Church Lane, Riding Mill, Northumberland NE44 6DR

Telephone: 01434 682374

Email: admin@broomhaugh.northumberland.sch.uk

Website: www.broomhaugh.northumberland.sch.uk

Executive Head Teacher: Miss Jennifer Ainsley

Chair of Governors: Mr Karl Fairley



Thursday 12 March 2020

Dear Parents,

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – update

At this time of uncertainty we are continuing to review the situation and will adapt how we respond as things evolve, in accordance with government guidance. The information below will hopefully reassure you we are aware of advice and doing all we can to minimise the risks.

Initial actions:

To date a number of steps have been, and are being taken to minimise the risks associated with Coronavirus. These include:

- giving guidance to pupils on the importance of good personal hygiene, particularly in relation to handwashing and use of tissues;
- ensuring that they wash hands frequently;
- increasing cleaning of key areas with emphasis on touch points, e.g. door handles;
- regularly checking that hand wash is available in the toilets.

We have ordered hand sanitizers to be introduced in school but due to demand they will not be with us for at least 6 weeks.

Current situation:

We have no known cases of pupils or staff having the Coronavirus. However, given the recent increase in cases in the UK and the Government's Chief Medical Officer's pronouncement that an epidemic in the UK is now highly likely, it seems inevitable that we will be affected to some degree at some point. As and when we do receive notification of a confirmed case, we will inform you and will adhere to government guidance.

For most people, the COVID-19 virus is mild and young people do not appear to be particularly vulnerable. However, for some people, particularly the elderly and those with underlying medical issues, it can be more serious. Anyone who has an underlying medical condition, or may be more vulnerable, needs to be aware that it is highly likely in the coming weeks that we will see increased cases in the North East and therefore may be exposed to the virus. They should seek advice from their GP or other health professional as required.

Contingency planning:

With the possibility that staff and pupils may have to self-isolate over the coming weeks, we are reviewing our resources and capacity to provide distance education and the steps to be taken based on possible scenarios – including school closures. Specific details regarding this will follow in due course.



Key actions for parents

- Please continue to encourage your son or daughter to maintain good hygiene, including washing hands regularly.
- Please provide your son or daughter with tissues to bring to school, to catch a cough or a sneeze. Used tissues should then be put in a bin as soon as possible.
- If you think your son or daughter may have been in contact with someone with Coronavirus and/or they develop symptoms that are a concern to you, please take the appropriate medical advice available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>.
- Inform the school immediately if you think your son or daughter may have the virus or become a primary contact.

Kind regards

J Ainsley
Miss Ainsley

School remains open and will continue to do so unless we receive further advice. We will inform you as soon as possible of any changes to these circumstances.

The Department for Education has launched a **Coronavirus helpline** to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education.

Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

You may also find this site useful <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/coronavirus-covid19-advice-for-parents/>

