



Hathern C of E Primary School

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Monday 16th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Today, as with most days, the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) have issued updated guidance for education settings on COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

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

As a school, we want to try and keep parents as well informed as possible on our approach to dealing with the virus and our response. We will be following the guidance as outlined below.

At present, the guidance (16th March 2020) states that:

- staff, young people and **children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others.** Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
- **if staff, young people or children become unwell on site (at school) with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they should be sent home**

The government's Chief Scientific Adviser *Sir Patrick Vallance* has just placed an extension on the time that self-isolation should be observed. Guidance now states that *if one person has coronavirus-like symptoms in a family, the entire household must isolate for 14 days.* Therefore, we ask that parents, or their children, who are exhibiting the symptoms outlined above follow the updated guidance for the wellbeing of the entire school community. Children absent from school due to self-isolation will have absence authorised.

We also want to reassure families that we are working behind the scenes to prepare for the possibility of enforced closure of the school. We are investigating ways of being able to make sure that pupils still have opportunities to learn in the event of the school needing to close. We are exploring opportunities for the use of online technologies in order to support off-line learning as best we can.

Any decision to close the school will be communicated to you at the earliest opportunity through text and email, so please ensure that you inform us of any changes to your contact details.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Dunn
Headteacher

'Learning and Caring Together'

