

18th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus update

I am writing to inform you about the current situation regarding the Coronavirus as it applies to Bernard Gilpin Primary School. We have followed the advice from Sunderland Local Authority, Public Health England and have received regular, daily updates from the Department of Education regarding education settings. At present school remains open for as long as we are advised and it safe to do so, but we will continue to revise our approach to the way our school operates, particularly in the weeks leading up to the Easter holiday.

Contingency for school closure

If the school closes we will use the school website www.bernardgilpin.com to notify you of closure arrangements. We will also be sending your child home with a variety of learning activities to support their learning. We are currently working to bring these resources together and want to reassure parents/carers that we will produce the most appropriate resources possible based on circumstance. It would be sensible to make sure that you have access to the internet and somewhere for your child to work independently at home.

Educational Visits

Following Government advice, Educational Visits planned for the remainder of the term are currently postponed until further notice.

Personal wellbeing

As I am sure you would all agree, it would be unwise for school to offer medical advice regarding Coronavirus and therefore we would advise that if you have any concerns, to contact your GP, ring 111 or take advice from Public Health England. We would again highlight Government guidance which is clear that children must not come in to school for 14 days from the point at which they show any sign of one or more of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Shortness of breath

Additional advice from Public Health England on what you can do is listed below:

- Self-isolate if you have either a high temperature or a new, continuous cough. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Only contact NHS 111 if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, your condition gets worse or your symptoms don't get better after seven days.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.
- Always wash your hands when you get home or into school.
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- To find the latest public information on coronavirus and for stay at home advice please visit: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

We will continue to provide updates and thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Take care.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A. Bainbridge
Headteacher

