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Dear Parents/Carers

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE AND SCHOOL PLAN

As you are probably aware, the Government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that at Holywell we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the Government and local authority.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

The school remains open – this is the current official guidance we have been given.

All school functions continue to run as normal. However, other after school clubs will discontinue from tomorrow, March 18th 2020. Not including St Michael's, you will need to check with them.

Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they should remain at home for 14 days:

- A new, continuous cough and/or
- A high temperature

Pupils should also remain at home for 14 days if anyone they live with has the above symptoms.

If your child is unwell or is self-isolating, report this as you would normally by e mailing or calling the school. Once you have informed us your child is unwell or self-isolating, you do not have to call each day.

We are very saddened to say that we have postponed the forthcoming trip to Skern Lodge and all further trips organised until further notice.

We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT PUPILS AND STAFF

- If staff/children appear to be showing symptoms, they are kept apart and sent home immediately.
- Hand washing for all children, staff and visitors on entry to/exit from the building.
- Regular supervised handwashing is in place, including before eating/after using the toilet; soap is available in all spaces.
- Children and staff are being reminded not to touch their face.
- Children and staff are reminded to cough/sneeze into tissues and the tissues immediately thrown away. If a tissue is not available, then they should sneeze/cough into the crook of the elbow.
- Physical contact is being kept to a minimum, including within subjects like PE, break times and assemblies.
- Visitors to the school site have been stopped for all “non-essential” activities.
- There is a planned cleaning schedule, focusing on high touch surfaces e.g. door handles, tables.
- Children and staff are being encouraged to take very regular drinks.
- Windows are being kept open.

WHAT WE NEED YOU TO DO

If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible via email/telephone.

Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It is a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. BBC Newsround has regular updates for younger children and Young Minds has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.

Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE SCHOOL HAS TO CLOSE?

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

While the school remains open, we will not routinely provide home learning. In the event that the school is closed, home learning will be available.

In either case, we will:

We will alert parents to the closure of school as soon as we know, via e mail, on the schools' Facebook page and on our website.

Any information about the school reopening will be posted in the same way.

In the event of the school closing, we will set home school learning for all year groups from Reception to Y6. We are currently exploring a range of free online resources and learning platforms that your child could have access to the from home. Please let us know if there are any issues for you with this (so we can make sure we are well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point).

We will keep you informed and updated about home school learning if the closure looks to be for a long period.

Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS:

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- NHS, if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use NHS 111 online if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the Government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools Government's travel advice, if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It is a tricky time and we know you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. It is important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Susan Denham

